

Journal of UFO History

VOLUME II.



OMNIBUS EDITION

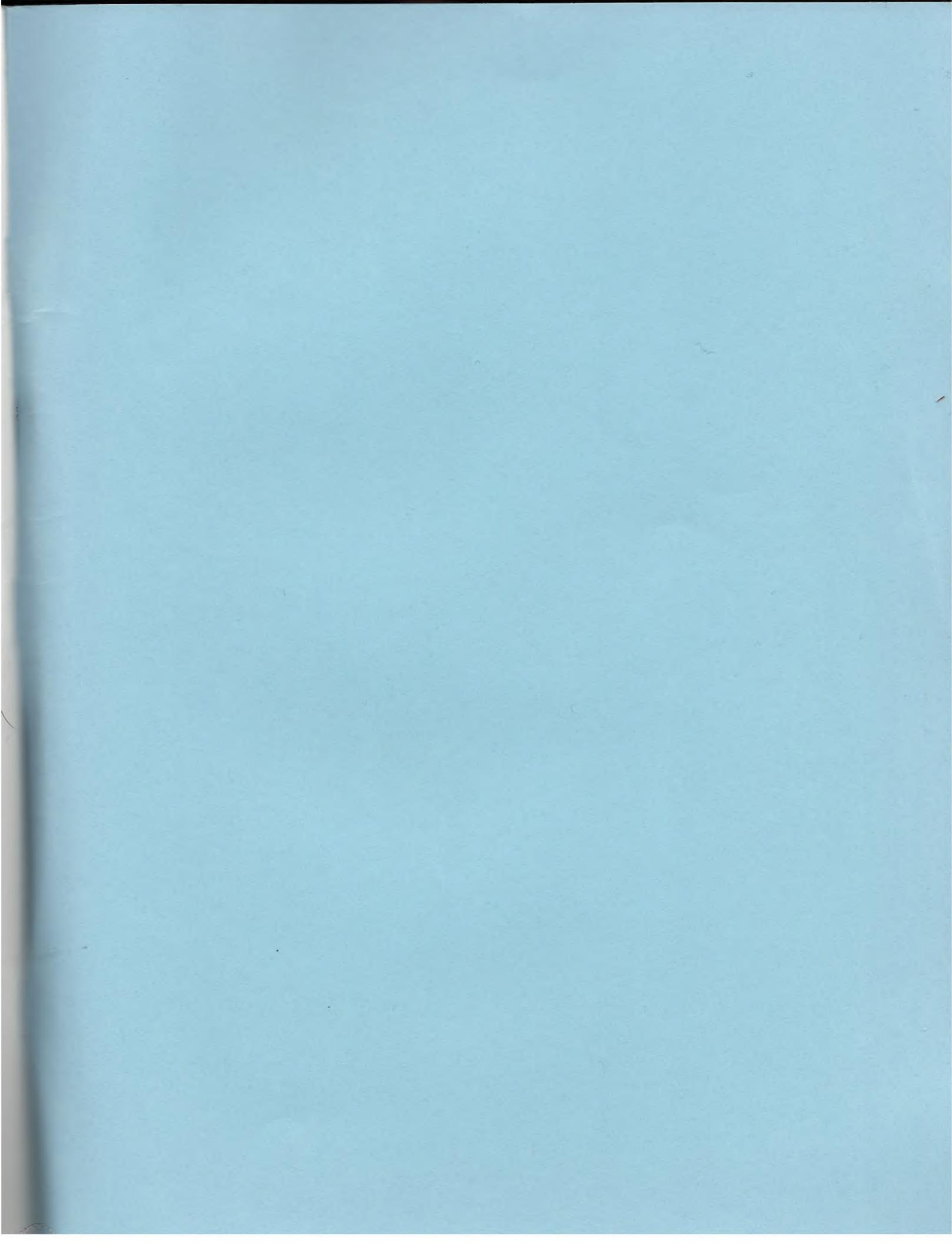
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Richard H. Hall, Editor



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FOREWORD

In June 2006 the Fund for UFO Research (FUFOR) published an omnibus report containing all six issues of the *Journal of UFO History* Volume I (2004-05) under one cover. The individual issues are no longer available, but the omnibus volume can be ordered from FUFOR, P.O. Box 7501, Alexandria, VA 22307 or via their web site (www.fufor.com)

All six issues of the *Journal of UFO History* Volume II (2005-06) are now included under one cover in this new omnibus volume, and the individual issues no longer are available separately. Each issue is reproduced exactly as originally published, errors and all. Corrections normally appeared in the next issue. Regular features of the *Journal* include continuing chronologies of UFO sightings and related events, essays on various topics, reproductions of past news stories, interviews with prominent people involved in historical UFO research and/or document preservation, and reproduction of significant historical documents, letters, and photographs.

Current *Journal* subscriptions are available. (See www.hallrichard.com)

Richard H. Hall
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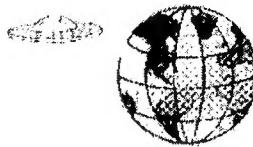
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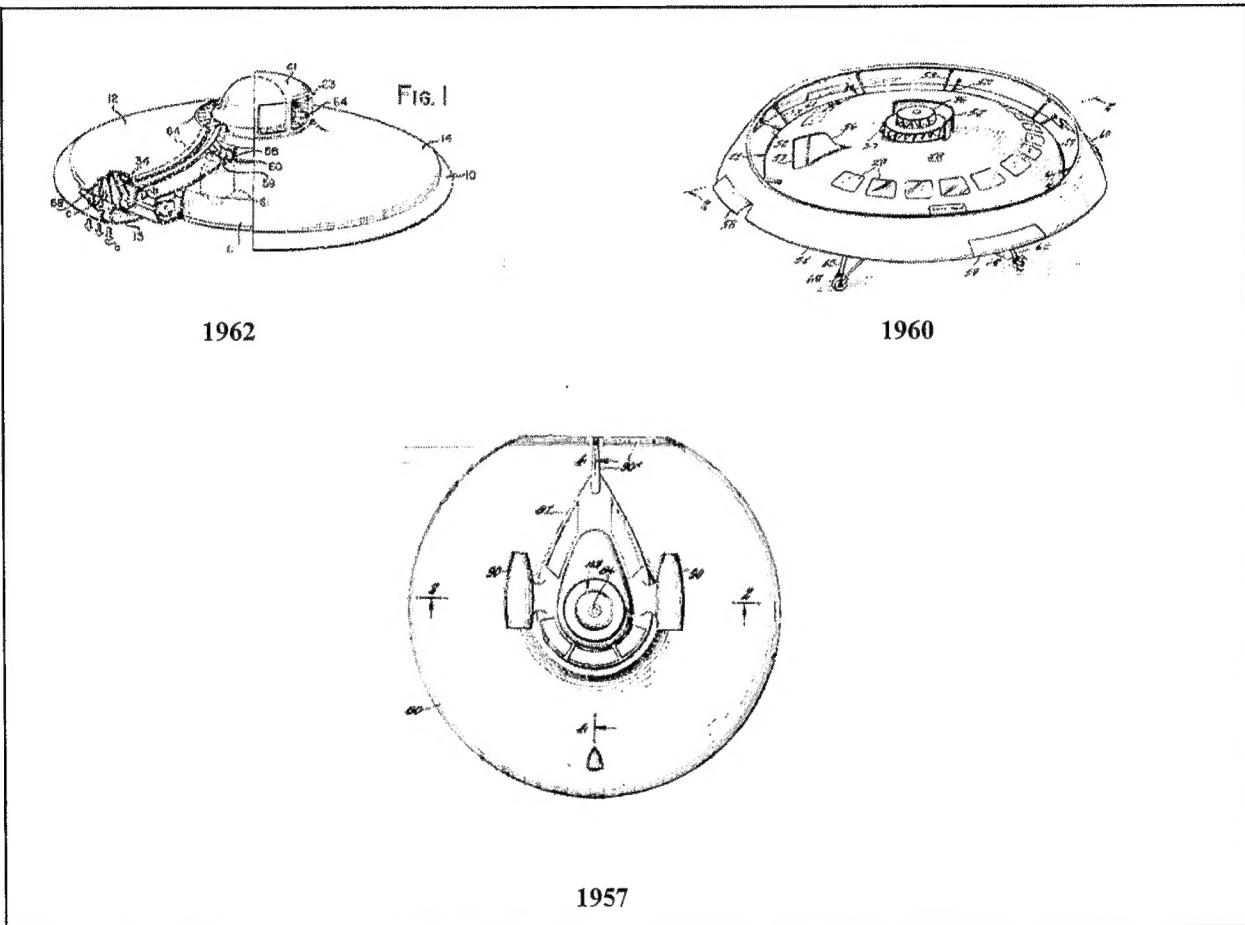
Journal of UFO History



A Publication of the Donald E. Keyhoe Archives

Vol. II, No. 1

March-April 2005



Flying Saucers Land in U.S. Patent Office

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EDITORIAL

An interview for the "Dialogue" feature was cancelled at the last minute when the interviewee decided that he was too disillusioned with the UFO subject to participate. The feature will be resumed in future issues as time and opportunity permits.

The decision followed a discussion we had about the very disappointing Feb. 24, 2005, ABC-TV "Peter Jennings Reports" 2-hour documentary on UFOs and ET life. The program turned out not to be what the producers had told many of us that it would be.

My review of it will appear in the next issue of the *Journal for Scientific Exploration*. □

NOTABLE QUOTES & OPINIONS

Nobel prize winner **Lester B. Pearson**, former Canadian foreign secretary, said that the best hope for world peace might be the discovery that space ships from another planet were circling the earth. "Then all of us on both sides of the Iron Curtain would get together and say, 'They can't do this to us.'" (Ottawa, Jan. 9, 1958, Associated Press.)

Wayne C. Lovell, curator of astronomy at the Museum of Natural History, in an interview, noted that too many reliable people had reported UFOs during the November 1957 sighting wave; "100 people in Texas could not all have been inebriated." What did he think they were seeing? "The government has many weapons they're keeping secret, so that explains why some of these reports of cylindrical objects in the sky have been hushed up. It's to our advantage to keep Russia in the dark about just what we have." He attributed the reported EM effects on vehicles to some kind of magnetic propulsion system in the U.S. secret weapons. (*Worcester Evening Gazette*, Worcester, Mass., Nov. 22, 1957.)

World War I flying ace **Capt. Eddie Rickenbacker**, president of Eastern Airlines, predicted in a talk to aviation executives in 1956 that interplanetary travel might be commonplace within 50 years. He suggested that atomic-powered transports would travel at speeds of more than 2,500 m.p.h., with greatly increased payloads and ranges, and spaceships would reach up to 5,000 m.p.h. carrying as many as 2,000 passengers. (Miami, Fla., Associated Press, Nov. 16, 1956.) □

THE 1952 SIGHTING WAVE, RADAR-VISUAL SIGHTINGS ESTABLISH UFOs AS A SERIOUS MYSTERY: Part 1, The Build-Up

The summer 1952 UFO sighting wave was one of the largest of all time, and arguably the most significant of all time in terms of the credible reports and hardcore scientific data obtained. Electromagnetic (EM) effects and physical trace evidence were more prominent in other waves, but 1952 (and 1953) featured recurring radar detection of UFOs, often from both ground and airborne radar, visual sightings by jet interceptor pilots sent up to pursue the mysterious objects, and cat-and-mouse chases in which the UFOs seemed to toy with the interceptors.

While driving through Utah in July a Navy chief (later warrant officer) saw a formation of unidentified flat circular objects maneuvering in the sky, stopped and took color motion picture film of them. The objects defied conventional explanation when analyzed by the top Air Force and Navy photogrammetric laboratories.

Further, Air Force investigators who plotted the sightings noticed that they were concentrated around strategic military bases, and this clearly posed a threat to national security since their origin was unknown. Senior generals in the Air Force concluded that UFOs were interplanetary in origin, and broadly hinted this belief in LIFE magazine.

In 1953 the relatively new Central Intelligence Agency convened a high-level panel of scientists to review the data, and Major Donald E. Keyhoe, USMC (Ret.) wrote his most famous book *Flying Saucers From Outer Space* based largely on Air Force Intelligence reports given to him by the Air Force.

What happened next constitutes one of the major unanswered questions of UFO history. The very compelling evidence obtained during this wave led the top officers in the Air Force Project

Sign UFO investigation to send a Top Secret "Estimate of the Situation" report to headquarters concluding that "flying saucers" were interplanetary. Why was the strong evidence obtained in 1952 rejected and its significance denied after 1953?

This series will continue regular installments of the Chronology of UFO History, report and discuss significant cases and background information, and include an extensive bibliography. What happened in 1952 in terms of radar-visual evidence and in 1953 in terms of government and military politics richly deserves careful and thorough review by historians and scientists.

Early 1952 UFO Sighting Chronology (Based on Air Force intelligence reports and other sources as cited.)

Jan. 20, Fairchild AFB, Wash. Two Air Force master sergeants, intelligence specialists, reported a bluish-white spherical object with a long blue tail that flew beneath a solid overcast.

Jan. 21, Mitchel AFB, N.Y. A Navy torpedo bomber pilot chased a dome-shaped circular white object that

(Continued on next page)

1952 Sighting Wave, Continued

accelerated and pulled away from him.

Jan. 22, North Alaska radar outpost. Ground radar and three airborne radar sets on F-94 interceptors tracked a distinct unexplainable target.

Jan. 29, Wonsan, Korea. Two separate B-29 bomber crews reported observing or being paced by bright unidentified orange circular objects.

Jan. 29, Washington, D.C. Brig. Gen. W.M. Garland and his staff at the Directorate of Intelligence, Headquarters USAF, were briefed on the status of Project Grudge UFO study.

Feb. 21, Washington, D.C. Sen. Richard B. Russell, Armed Services Committee, letter to Secretary of Air Force requesting an official report on recent UFO sightings "by combat airmen in the Far East."

Mar. 3. Dr. Walther Riedel, formerly a German rocket scientist at Peenemunde, said: "I'm convinced saucers have an out-of-world basis." (*Life* magazine, Apr. 7, 1952.)

Mar. 10, Oakland, Calif. An engineering metals inspector watched two dark wing- (or hemisphere-) shaped objects pass overhead, swaying back and forth like a pendulum. (NICAP report.)

March. Project Grudge was upgraded to a separate organization, the Aerial Phenomena Group, and the name was changed to Project Blue Book. According to Ruppelt this change was made "because of the steadily increasing

"General Garland advised that he is considering making arrangements for a guided missile to be fired at one of the objects, and of having camera equipped all-weather interceptors stand by to intercept and photograph them." — Internal Air Force memorandum, 28 Feb. 1952.

number of reports we [the Air Force] were receiving. ..." (Ruppelt, p. 131.)

Apr. 7. *Life* magazine published an article, "Have We Visitors From Space?" When newsmen began asking him whether the article was Air Force inspired, Ruppelt replied that they had furnished *Life* with some raw data. "My answer was purposely weasel worded," he said, "because I knew that the Air Force had unofficially inspired the *Life* article... [and also knew that the strongly implied answer that UFOs were interplanetary] was the personal opinion of several very high-ranking officers in the Pentagon -- so high that their personal opinion was almost policy." (Ruppelt, p. 132.)

May 1, Tucson, Ariz. Two shiny discs overtook a B-36 bomber as it passed over Davis-Monthan AFB in the morning, slowed and positioned themselves near the plane. One moved close alongside and was observed from the waist blister by the crew members. Witnesses on the ground also saw the objects, which were about 20-25 feet in diameter. After several minutes the objects "departed at extremely high speed in a southerly direction."

(Continued on next page)

1952 Sighting Wave, Continued

May 1, George AFB, Calif. An Air Force officer and a group of airmen in a separate location at 10:50 a.m. observed a formation of five white disc-shaped objects, three in front and two behind. The trailing objects darted around in zig-zag motions. Suddenly the objects switched to a tight V-formation, made an almost 90-degree turn and sped away over the mountains.

May, Alexandria, Va. A top official of the Central Intelligence Agency and his guests at a lawn party about 10:00 p.m. Saw a luminous object approaching. It stopped and quickly went into a steep vertical climb, stopped and leveled off again. The official and his guests then saw the object dive down, level off, and streak away to the east. (Ruppelt, pp. 135-36.)

May 8, Washington, D.C. Secretary of the Air Force Thomas K. Finletter was briefed for an hour about the Project Blue Book UFO study. "He listened intently and asked several questions about specific sightings when the briefing was finished." (Ruppelt, p. 138.)

May 10, Ellenton, S.C. Employees of DuPont Corporation at the Savannah River Plant, Atomic Energy Commission, saw four disc-shaped objects approach, then two other discs pass high overhead from different directions at about 10:45 p.m. They were luminous yellow-gold color, traveling at a high rate of speed. One disc approached at such a low altitude that it had to rise up to pass over some tall tanks at the facility. One witness reported that "the objects were weaving from left to right" while continuing on a steady course. (FBI report.)

"In May 1952, Project Blue Book received 79 UFO reports compared to 99 in April. It looked as if we'd passed the peak and were now on the downhill side. The 178 reports of the past two months...had piled up a sizable backlog....During June we planned to clear out the backlog, and then we could relax. But never underestimate the power of a UFO. In June the big flap hit...." - Capt. Edward J. Ruppelt, pp. 138-39.

Bibliography: 1952 UFO Sighting Wave

Hall, Richard. *Radar-Visual UFO Cases in 1952: The UFO Sightings That Shook the Government* (Fund for UFO Research, 1994).

Keyhoe, Donald E. *Flying Saucers From Outer Space* (New York: Henry Holt & Co., 1953).

National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena, *U.S. Air Force Projects Grudge and Blue Book Reports 1-12 (1951-1953)*; (Washington, D.C.: NICAP, 1968).

Ruppelt, Edward J. *The Report on Unidentified Flying Objects* (New York: Doubleday, 1956). Also available online at www.nicap.org

See also 1952 cases and documents on the following web sites:

www.nicap.org
www.project1947.org
www.bluebookarchive.org
www.cufon.org

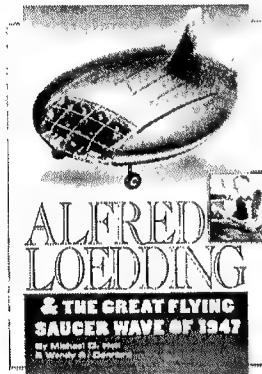
(Next issue: Part 2, The Flap Begins.)

U.S. PATENTS FOR DISC AIRCRAFT: A HISTORICAL SURVEY

Looking very much like the real thing, some obviously inspired by UFO sightings, dozens of patents have been filed in the U.S. Patent Office for disc-shaped, essentially wingless, aircraft designs some dating to before World War II.

A fascinating web site as of this writing contains 39 pages of the patents and links to related web sites. (see www.rexresearch.com/wingless/wingless.htm).

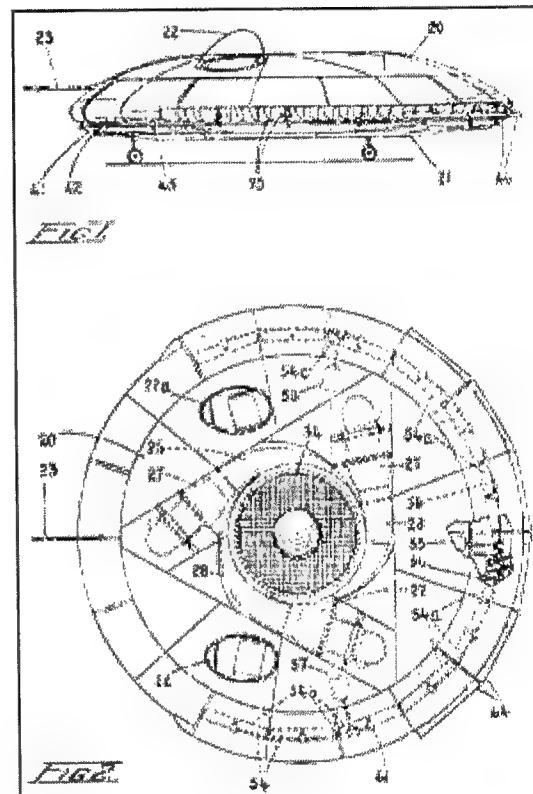
One patent that we know was inspired by 1940s "flying saucer" reports was taken out by Alfred C. Loedding, a



Loedding disc aircraft concept

plate. (Patent #2,619,302, 11-25-52 "Low Aspect Ratio Aircraft.")¹

Also represented are patents for the notorious "AVRO saucer" which in 1955 the Air Force claimed was scheduled to be a supersonic aircraft, but which in reality was an unsuccessful prototype that never flew except as a "ground cushion" machine barely inches off the ground. (Patents #3,020,003 and 3,018,068, 1962, by John C.M. Frost, *et al.*)



Frost disc aircraft patent

One of the earlier patents on record was filed Nov. 18, 1947, a few months after the summer 1947 UFO sighting wave, by Charles H. Zimmerman. The drawing shows a perfect double convex disc with a prominent fin on one end. (Patent #2,431,293, "Airplane of Low Aspect Ratio.")

Zimmerman, an engineer with the National Advisory Committee for
(Continued on next page)

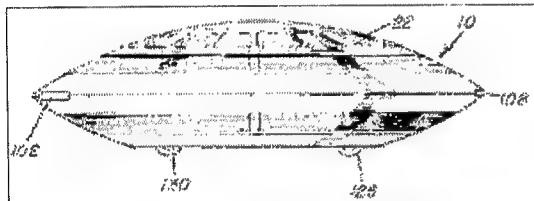
¹ See Michael D. Hall and Wendy A. Connors, *Alfred Loedding & The Great Flying Saucer Wave of 1947* (Albuquerque, NM: Rose Press, 1998)..

Disc Aircraft Patents, Continued

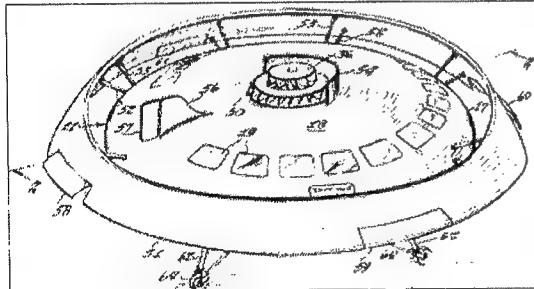
Aeronautics (predecessor of NASA), had designed the propellor-driven V-173 "Flying Flapjack" in the 1930s (patented in 1938) as a pioneering near-Vertical Takeoff and Landing plane intended for aircraft carrier use.

The test model first flew in 1942. Contrary to the myth prevailing in some revisionist history circles that Kenneth Arnold in July 1947 saw a formation of then-secret Navy aircraft over Mt. Rainier, Washington, the XF5U military version of the aircraft never flew. The experimental aircraft continued to have unresolved technical problems, notably excessive vibration levels, and the project was cancelled on March 17, 1947.

Many of the patent drawings eerily resemble reported UFOs, but is it a case of life imitating art, or vice versa? Most

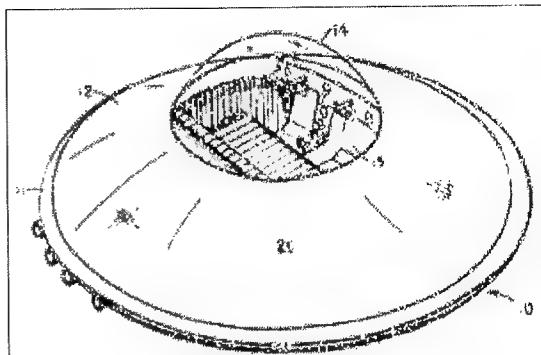


Grayson patent 1960



Mellen patent 1960

likely the "cultural penetration" of the flying saucer or disc craft concept via



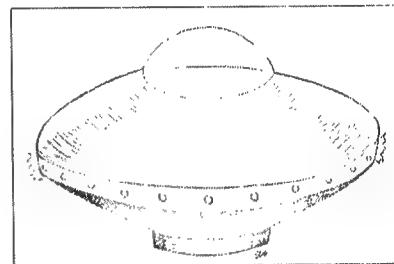
Patent #3,395,876, Aug. 6, 1968;
Jacob B. Green

television and movies inspired creative designers to go to their drawing boards and contemplate the aerodynamic features of discs.

The Grayson and Mellen patent drawings shown here, both from 1960, mimic numerous typical UFO sightings. What motivated the designers to adopt this configuration is unknown.

And the 1968 Jacob Green patent drawing is a dead ringer for the classic disc with dome "flying saucer" reported from all over the world for decades. The discoidal shape is one of the most commonly reported UFO types, and rows of square windows like those on the Mellen patent drawing have been reported in hundreds of cases.

The 1970 Norway illustration, taken from *The UFO Evidence, Vol. II* (Hall, Scarecrow Press, 2001) is an artist's conception based on a UFO sighting. The object in this case emitted brilliant light that blinded the driver of the car, descended and hovered, and finally shot straight up out of sight. □



1970 UFO in Norway

MIKE WALLACE INTERVIEW OF MAJ. DONALD E. KEYHOE: A Sequel to the Armstrong Circle Theater

About two weeks after the January 23, 1958, Armstrong Circle Theater program on CBS-TV, reported in the previous issue, a youthful Mike Wallace continued the debate on ABC. The controversy over UFOs was ideal for his tough interviewing style.

Major Donald E. Keyhoe, USMC (Ret.), Director of the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena (NICAP) was his guest on March 8, 1958. Wallace opened the program in this manner:¹

Good evening. Tonight we go after a fantastic story, the story that flying saucers from other worlds are visiting our planet just as we are exploring outer space with our own rocket satellites [sic]. Our guest is former Marine Air Corps Major Donald Keyhoe who has the support of scores of prominent business men, military men and some scientists in his campaign to prove that flying saucers exist. If you're curious to know why Major Keyhoe charges that the United States Air Force is deliberately deluding us, when it calls saucer stories the "bunk," if you want to hear his own evidence that the saucers are real and his reaction to the claim of two Americans who say they've spoken with men from Venus, we'll go after those stories in just a moment. My name is Mike Wallace, the cigarette is Parliament.

Wallace no doubt was taking advantage of the publicity generated by the Armstrong Circle Theater broadcast during which Major Keyhoe had been cut off the air when he deviated from

¹ 15-page transcript on file in the Donald E. Keyhoe Archives.



Mike Wallace in 1950s

the script insisted upon by the Air Force. Wallace covered all aspects of the controversy, including the "contactees" who claimed they were communicating with spacemen. Some excerpts follow:

Wallace: As head of this private group [NICAP] interested in flying saucers, he's repeatedly attacked the United States Air Force and others for claiming that flying saucers are apparently flights of fancy and not flights by Martians or men from the moon ... [Most people] probably hold the view of Columnist Bob Considine who wrote that flying saucers are products of, for the most part, quote: "pranksters, half-wits, cranks, publicity hounds, fanatics in general and screw-balls" end quote. How do you feel about Mr. Considine's charge?

Keyhoe: Well, I know where he got the story, he got it from Colonel Watson out at the Air Technical Intelligence Center in Dayton, in fact, the colonel went even a little farther and he said "Behind every sighting

(Continued on next page)

Mike Wallace Interview, Continued

was an idiot, a crackpot or a religious fanatic." That included a lot of high-ranking Air Force pilots, incidentally...[some interjections by Wallace such as "Uhhmm..." that show in the transcript are removed here] and many airline captains, people who are qualified to see these things. He's just following out an Air Force policy.

Wallace: Well now, you're not suggesting that Bob Considine is in the pay of the Air Force, he...

Keyhoe: No, I'm not.

Wallace: ... with a considerable reputation.

Keyhoe: I mean the colonel, no I have only respect for Bob Considine.

Wallace: In spite of the fact that he suggests the pranks -- pranksters, half-wits and screw-balls are responsible for the stories about flying saucers?

Keyhoe: Well, I wish I could show him at any time a list of about 800 witnesses, some of the big names in aviation including up to the rank of colonel in the Air Force. They're still flying and they're still carrying passengers. They've never been grounded. They're still guiding airliners in, the radar men are, night after night in bad weather. If they're screw-balls and incompetents, why are they still on the job?

...
Wallace: You make the charge that the United States Government is withholding from the people of the United States certain very important information, why, what could their motive be for withholding that kind of information from us?

Keyhoe: Well, I'll answer that but I would also like to show you some proof that they are withholding. The reason that was given to me when they were working with me back in 1952 and 1953 was, first, that they were

afraid of hysteria. Remember the Orson Welles show back -- way -- many years back when he scared people to the hills with a --

Wallace: I do.

Keyhoe: ... the idea of invading Martians. Then they were also afraid that it would upset organized religion. That was a smaller factor but there was some fear of it. Later they were also afraid that these accidents when interceptors had chased these things and had been lost or had crashed might be considered proof of hostility. Now I would never have put my name on anything if it were a matter of personal opinion. I've talked to and read the reports of hundreds of pilots and radar men, and guided missile trackers who've seen these things and some of them are very important names.

Now the Air Force says they have this down to 1.9 percent [unexplained] but you lose the word "current" in there.... We are currently explaining [Project Blue Book] Special Report 14 which is their Bible on this. In the back it has a table showing 3,201 cases they examined, 19 and a half percent were unsolved and they admit they still aren't solved. If you add up what they've had since then, it makes over 12 percent of the reports and those are mostly from the best possible sources.

Wallace: [After some further discussion about percentages and citing Dr. Donald Menzel's skeptical position] But again, let's get back to the point, the most important point, Major Keyhoe, and that is, why will the Air Force -- why will the United States Government withhold information from United States citizens? -- for what reason?

Keyhoe: Because they're treating them like children the way they did with the H-bomb at first, and the way they were doing -- they've been doing with other things. Now I'm not attacking the United States Air Force, I'm

(Continued on next page)

Mike Wallace Interview, Continued

attacking a small group in there that has been persistently keeping this from the public just as they've kept other things. For a long time you couldn't even mention the idea that we could be hit by missiles from submarines, from the Gulf and from both coasts very easily. I knew that years and years ago, and tried to get it out, but at the time was discouraged about it. [Reviews what happened on the Armstrong Circle Theater broadcast and Air Force denials.] ...

Wallace: All right Major, about George Udensky [Adamski], -- and Howard Menger; both men claimed to have talked with men from Venus, Menger claims that he's even taken a ride in the flying saucer. Do you believe it?

Keyhoe: No.

Wallace: Do you think they are hoaxsters?

Keyhoe: We do not accept any reports of these so-called contactees without more evidence. We've asked them to submit their claims and take a lie detector test--we don't throw them out, we simply say we'll give you a fair chance. I think that's the least important part of the picture. The most important part is the weight of evidence from hundreds of competent people -- now, I'd like to name a few. Capt. Richard Case, American Airlines; C.S. Chiles, Eastern Airlines; Capt. T. Kravitz, TWA; Robert Adickes, TWA; Col. Donald J. Blakeslee, U.S. Air Force, a wing commander -- I could go down the list of people who know what they're doing, and they're still on duty, they're still flying.

Wallace: Major Keyhoe, what would you like to see done about flying saucers that is not currently being done? What steps would you like to see taken?

Keyhoe: I think the American people should write to their Congressmen and insist that

open hearings be held by the Senate Subcommittee on Government Operations, which has been looking into this for 6 months.

Wallace: An Air Force spokesman told us this last week, he said "Members of the Senate subcommittee have talked with us already and they have shown no interest in conducting any hearings on this issue."

Keyhoe: I talked with the chief investigator within the last 2 weeks, I gave him a lot of information, and I gave him data on one case where an airliner was sent to chase one of these things, and the passengers kept in ignorance of it, at that time. It involves two government agencies besides the Air Force which have refused to release the report, and I'll say this, if you were to get it -- if the committee were to get [garbled transcript] it would be a big revelation because the Air Force is simply treating the American people like children. They don't trust them with the facts.

Wallace: You know, here is an interesting -- I think an interesting question, Major. The United States and Russia started sending up satellites into the sky and we may be hitting the moon with a rocket soon, possibly Mars; do you believe that creatures from outer space have space stations on Mars? What's going to happen when we start firing rockets at the moon or at Mars?

Keyhoe: That question has already been brought up. We expect to have a base on the moon within the next 5 years. It's possible that there is a base there--I don't say there is any proof of it...

Wallace: ...is it possible that we're going to start an interplanetary war when we start sending our rockets to the moon and to Mars?

Keyhoe: In 1955 General Douglas MacArthur said the next war would be an interplanetary
(Continued on next page)

Mike Wallace Interview, Continued

war and we'd have to unite against people from other planets.

Wallace: One last question. Major Keyhoe, have you ever seen a flying saucer?

Keyhoe: I've seen them tracked on radar, but I take the word of about 800 of the best witnesses in the country and abroad.

Wallace: But you yourself, have never seen a flying saucer?

Keyhoe: I've just been a reporter, and a careful one.

Wallace: Thank you very much Major Donald Keyhoe. As you've just heard, the flying saucer controversy is deadlocked in contradictory statements and interpretation of facts. As for Major Donald Keyhoe himself, like most of us he's never seen a flying saucer. Which may just make him like a mystic who's never seen a ghost. But one must give him credit – he has much faith. In a moment, I'll bring you a rundown on next week's guest....□

AIR FORCE OFFICERS SUPPORT NICAP

In a 1961 letter to NICAP, Maj. Edwin A. Jerome, USAF (Ret.), a former command pilot, stated: "I suggest we are several centuries behind the intellects of other planets The national policy should be to educate the public to the real possibility of the existence of the UFO."

Writing from the Air Command and Staff College at Maxwell AFB, Alabama, in 1968, Maj. John R. King told NICAP that he had recently given a talk on UFOs to a group of Air Force officers. "I was

Gen. Douglas MacArthur Statement

Both in 1955 to an Italian official and again in 1962 in his farewell address to the West Point cadets, MacArthur talked about the possibility of interplanetary war. On May 12, 1962, at West Point he said:

You now face a new world, a world of change. The thrust into outer space of the satellite, spheres and missiles marks a beginning of another epoch in the long story of mankind....in the three or more billion years of development of the human race, there has never been a greater, a more abrupt or staggering evolution.

We deal now, not with things of this world alone, but with the illimitable distances and as yet unfathomed mysteries of the universe. We are reaching out for a new and boundless frontier. We speak in strange terms of [new sources of energy and] of ultimate conflict between a united human race and the sinister forces of some other planetary galaxy; of such dreams and fantasies as to make life the most exciting of all times. - *National Observer*, reprinted in the *Washington Post*, June 20, 1962

pleasantly surprised to see the positive response of the audience, including public disclosure by two officers in the audience of sightings with which they had personal involvement and knowledge. Another officer approached me privately and told me of a sighting which he had witnessed, after I had pledged to keep his identity confidential. ... Don't become discouraged. There are many of us in the Air Force who are with you, but you recognize our problem. We work quietly, but, I hope, with some effect. Best of luck to you. □

GEN. GARLAND SECRET MEMO Atomic Energy Connection Noted

On January 3, 1952, Brig. Gen. W.M. Garland in the Air Force Directorate of Intelligence sent a SECRET memorandum to General John A. Samford, Director of Intelligence, titled "Contemplated Action to Determine the Nature and Origin of the Phenomena Connected with the Reports of Unusual Flying Objects."

The 4-point memo began: "1. The continued reports of unusual flying objects requires positive action to determine the nature and origin of this phenomena [sic]." Point 2 speculated that the reported sightings might be related to aeronautical developments in Germany and the U.S.S.R. Then in Point 3:

"In view of the above facts and the persistent reports of unusual flying objects over parts of the United States, particularly the east and west coast and in the vicinity of the atomic energy production and testing facilities, it is apparent that positive action must be taken to determine the nature of the objects and, if possible, their origin. ...It is believed possible that the Soviets may have developed the [late World War II] German aircraft designs at an accelerated rate in order to have a suitable carrier for the delivery of weapons of mass destruction [thus posing a serious threat to the U.S.]"

Point 4 concluded: "In view of the facts outlined above, it is considered mandatory that the Air Force take positive action at once to definitely

determine the nature and, if possible, the origin of the reported unusual flying objects." A 3-part plan is proposed: (1) Require Air Technical Intelligence Center to establish teams to work with Air Defense Command teams "for the purpose of taking radar scope photographs and visual photographs of the phenomena." (2) Select sites for these teams based on reported concentrations of sightings, namely Seattle, Albuquerque, and New York-Philadelphia areas. (3) Begin the program immediately "during early January 1952." (Credit: Loren E. Gross, *The Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse, UFOs: A History*; 1952 January-May, Supplemental Notes pp. 3-4.)

Editorial comment: The "nuclear connection" with UFOs has recently been the subject of concentrated study. See www.nicap.org, Nuclear Connection Project. Also during the 1950s several sources told NICAP of a secret Air Force project to use specially equipped F-94 interceptors to photograph UFOs; and a NASA scientist while applying for a job at the National Bureau of Standards learned of a classified project there to analyze radarscope photographs of UFOs. □

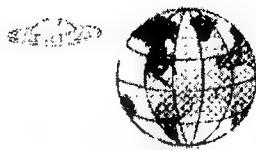
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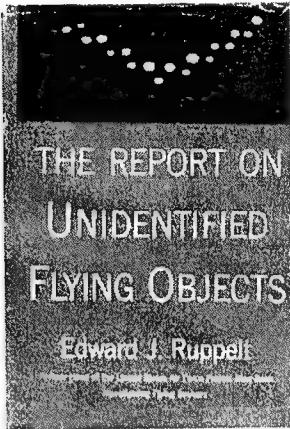
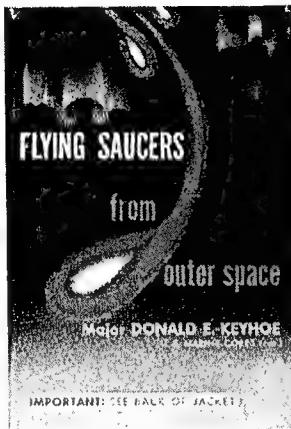


Vol. II, No. 2

May-June 2005



Maj. Donald E. Keyhoe



Capt. Edward J. Ruppelt

The 1952 Sighting Wave: A Turning Point in UFO History

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EDITORIAL

The 1952 UFO sighting wave was one of the most significant of all time, and if there is a conscious "cover-up" of some hidden truth, it was firmly in place by 1953. Part 2 of the series is reported in this issue. As an alert reader noticed, I mistakenly said in Part 1 that the Top Secret Estimate of the Situation concluding that UFOs probably were interplanetary in origin was written following the 1952 wave. Actually it was written in 1949, not accepted by the Air Force hierarchy and suppressed. By 1952 it was top members of the Air Force hierarchy suggesting that UFOs were interplanetary. □

KEYHOE & RUPPELT FRIENDS

In 1951 and 1952, the Air Force considered Donald E. Keyhoe to be a highly responsible journalist, and gave him unique access to dozens of startling intelligence reports. After 1953, when the Air Force backtracked on its views, Keyhoe was accused of sensationalism and worse.

It is a little-known fact that Keyhoe and Edward J. Ruppelt were friends. In 1953 Ruppelt sent a telegram to Henry Holt & Co. authenticating the reports in Keyhoe's book. In April 1954 Ruppelt sent Keyhoe a formal letter (salutation "Dear Major Keyhoe") repeating and elaborating on his 1953 telegram. The formal letter was accompanied by a private note (salutation "Dear Don") saying how much he enjoyed their bull session. "If you get back out this way and have any spare time," he said, "you'll have to come down and have dinner with us. I always like to talk flying saucers."

In a P.S. he said the enclosed formal letter "sounds a little stupid in spots. I tried to make it sound as if we weren't especially friends....If this isn't okay let me know and I'll redo it." (See page 7.)

A later revised edition of Ruppelt's "pro-UFO" book contained three added chapters, debunking the subject and taking a few potshots at Keyhoe in the process. Was Ruppelt "anti-UFO" all along? If so, this would suggest that he was a very insincere and opportunistic person for publishing the "pro-UFO" book and deceiving people about his real opinions. Major Keyhoe always believed that someone had put pressure on him to alter his stated views. □

THE 1952 SIGHTING WAVE, RADAR-VISUAL SIGHTINGS ESTABLISH UFOs AS A SERIOUS MYSTERY: Part 2, The Flap Begins

Through the first 5 months of 1952, the Air Force Project Blue Book investigators had noticed a build-up of UFO sightings. Then, according to project chief Capt. Edward J. Ruppelt, "In June the big flap hit...." The objects displayed intelligent control by circling, maneuvering, reacting to pursuit, and otherwise demonstrating extraordinary capabilities unlike any known technology or natural phenomenon, such as sharp turns, rapid vertical motions, and sudden reversals of direction. Radar repeatedly confirmed the presence of unidentified solid objects.

During June 1952, Capt. Ruppelt said, the Air Force was taking UFOs seriously because a lot of good reports were coming in from Korea. Pilots were seeing silvery discs and spheres, and radar in Japan, Korea, and Okinawa all had tracked unidentified targets. (Ruppelt, p. 192.)

Mid-1952 UFO Sighting Chronology (Based on Air Force Intelligence reports and other sources as cited.)

June 1, Los Angeles, Calif. At Hughes Aircraft Company, a crew of test section radar technicians were tracking what they thought was an airliner, when it suddenly climbed rapidly to 55,000 feet, leveled off and sped away.

June 15, Louisville, Ky. A former Navy radar technician saw an unidentified cigar-shaped object in the vicinity of Standiford Field. The object had a light on either side of the fuselage and a reddish hue on the trailing end. It appeared to be moving at about 400-500 m.p.h., and maneuvered around in several directions for 15 minutes, then descended and flew away to the northeast.

June 18, California. A UFO paced a B-25 bomber for 30 minutes. No explanation could be found for the object and it was classified as "unknown."

"There is no other conclusion I can reach but that for six hours on the morning of the 20th of July there were at least 10 unidentifiable objects moving above Washington I can safely deduce that they performed gyrations which no known aircraft could perform. By this I mean that our scope showed that they could make right angle turns and complete reversals of flight." – Senior air route traffic controller Harry G. Barnes.

June 19, Goose AFB, Newfoundland. A glowing red object approached the base, tracked on radar. As the object appeared to wobble, its radar image enlarged. The image was consistent with that of a disc banking so that a larger profile was displayed to the radar.

June 20, Korea. A flight of five Marine Corps F4U-4B fighter planes on a mission spotted a silvery-white object passing below them, banking into a left turn. As the object circled around, the flight leader dove toward the object, which appeared to be 10-20 feet in diameter and it flew away at an estimated speed of 1,000 m.p.h. and disappeared toward friendly lines.

(Continued on next page)

1952 Sighting Wave, Continued

June 21, Oak Ridge, Tenn. A Ground Observer Corps spotter reported a strange light flying over the Atomic Energy Commission facility about 11:00 p.m., and the object also was showing on radar. A National Guard P-47 attempted to intercept the UFO and engaged in a "dogfight" with what appeared as a blinking white light. Finally, the object put on an incredible burst of speed and disappeared.

June 26, Valdosta, Ga. An Air Force pilot in a T-33 jet from Moody AFB observed a circular object ahead of him at about 20,000 feet. The object began emitting a thin smoke or vapor trail and suddenly started climbing, accelerating rapidly and moving in a zig-zag pattern, then shot straight out of sight "in a matter of a few seconds."

July 1, East Coast, U.S. During the morning two silvery elliptical UFOs were observed visually near Boston, where an F-94 interceptor was sent up to investigate. The objects moved south along the East coast and hovered near Fort Monmouth, N.J., for about 5 minutes at 50,000 feet. As radar at Fort Monmouth detected the objects, they put on a burst of speed and headed southwest toward Washington, D.C., confirmed visually. At about noon, a physics professor in Washington reported seeing a grayish UFO hovering and arcing back and forth across the sky. (Ruppelt, pp. 200-202.)

July (1st week), Berlin, Germany. German newspaper stories circulated in the

American intelligence community by the CIA reported that a former town mayor and his daughter, observed a disc-shaped craft that landed in a forest clearing in the Soviet Zone. Near it were two "men" dressed in shiny metallic clothing. "They were stooped over and were looking at something lying on the ground."

Approaching to within about 10 meters, Linke saw a large circular object about 13-15 meters in diameter. Around its edge were two rows of "holes", and on the top was a dark "conical tower" about 3 meters tall, apparently a comparison to the conning tower of a submarine.

When Herr Linke's daughter called out to him, the two "men" immediately reacted and disappeared inside the conical tower. The color around the edge changed from green to red, a hum was heard increasing in intensity, and the tower (or turret) began to slide down into the center of the object. As it did so, the craft began to rise slowly off the ground, rotating like a top. Gradually the object accelerated, emitting a whistling sound, leveled off and moved away horizontally gaining altitude and disappearing in the distance.

In a formal statement submitted to a judge, Linke said: "When the object had disappeared, I went to the place where it had been. I found a circular opening [sic, probably an indentation] in the ground and it was quite evident that it was freshly dug."

July 2, Tremonton, Utah. Navy photographer Delbert C. Newhouse and his wife, while driving across the state, saw a group of 12-14 shiny silver objects

(Continued on next page)

1952 Sighting Wave, Continued

milling around in the sky. Newhouse stopped the car, retrieved his 16 mm camera from his luggage, and filmed extensive footage of the objects.

He and his wife both reported seeing some of the objects relatively close-up and they were shaped like one plate inverted atop another. When the film was returned to Newhouse following Navy and Air Force analysis, the frames showing the discs close-up had been deleted. (See Interview, page 8.)

July 5, Richlands, Wash. Four airline pilots observed a "perfectly round disc" hovering above the Hanford atomic plant.

July 10, Korea. The crew of the Canadian destroyer *Crusader* saw two shiny discs and tracked them on radar.

July 13, Washington, D.C. A National Airlines flight crew reported being approached and then paced by a "ball of blue-white light." When the pilot turned on his landing lights, the object "departed from the vicinity at an estimated 1,000 m.p.h." on an upward course. The weather was clear with good visibility.

July 14, Norfolk, Va. A Pan American Airways flight crew saw six glowing red-orange discs in echelon approach head-on at high speed below their airliner which was at 8,000 feet. The objects joined up with two more discs, reversed direction at a sharp angle and sped away. Witness on the ground also had seen the objects.

July 16, Hampton Roads, Va. About 9:00 p.m. an aeronautical engineer for the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics (predecessor of NASA) watched two amber-colored lights, much too large for aircraft, moving north. The objects circled rapidly, joined by two other objects from different directions, and the four sped away to the south.

July 18, Patrick AFB, Fla. Many witnesses at the Air Force Guided Missile Long-Range Proving Ground at 10:45 p.m. observed two amber-colored lights maneuvering west of the base, then a third approached rapidly from the west and flew overhead. Within 15 minutes two more objects passed overhead from the west, circled over the ocean and came back over the observers. They were not aircraft or balloons.

July 19, River Edge, N.J. Associated Press reporter Saul Pett about midnight saw an intensely glowing, non-blinking orange ball of light moving steadily overhead from the northwest to the southeast for 1-2 minutes. He said that it was moving too fast and too steadily for a balloon.

July 19/20, Washington, D.C. Shortly after midnight FAA radar operators at National Airport began tracking a group of 7-10 unidentified targets southwest of the city, moving about 100-130 m.p.h. An individual object would disappear from the scope at intervals, then another target would appear. This continued for about 6 hours, while airline pilots in the area reported sighting unidentified lights in the

(Continued on next page)

1952 Sighting Wave, Continued

positions where radar was detecting unexplained targets. They were not any known aircraft.

July 20, Herndon, Va. At 3:00 a.m. a Capital Airlines flight approaching Washington National Airport reported that an unidentified light was following it. Air Route Traffic Control radar tracked the UFO to within about 4 miles of the airport before it disappeared.

July 20, Andrews AFB, Maryland. In mid-evening Air Force radar tracked up to 10 UFOs for 15-20 minutes. The objects approached the runway, scattered, made sharp turns and reversals of direction. (Air Force weather observer report to NICAP.)

July 22, New Smyrna Beach, Fla. A private pilot, alerted by his wife, saw a hovering metallic-appearing disc at about 5:45 p.m. After about 10 seconds, the disc abruptly shot away climbing at a steep angle and disappeared. (NICAP report form.)

July 23, Culver City, Calif. Several aircraft plant employees saw a bright silvery elliptical object that moved northwest, then stopped and hovered. Two small discs emerged and circled around the area before rejoining the "mother ship." The object then climbed straight up out of sight at tremendous speed.

This small sample of cases does not fully convey the number and intensity of highly significant sightings during this

period. For more details, see the bibliographic references.

The spectacular radar-visual sightings at Washington, D.C., on the weekend of July 19/20 were repeated - with some new twists - on the following weekend. The story will resume in the next issue with the events of July 25th.

(Next issue: Part 3, What's Going On?)

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National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena, *U.S. Air Force Projects Grudge and Blue Book Reports 1-12 (1951-1953)*; (Washington, D.C.: NICAP, 1968).

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See also the following web sites:

www.nicap.org

www.bluebookarchive.org

brumac.8k.com/1952yearofufo/1952yearofufo.html

3911 36th Ave.
21 April 1964

Dear Dan,

Sorry that I couldn't get this out to you sooner but we were gone over the weekend and I just got home and found your letter. I think that I will get to you by Wednesday if I get it out ~~as~~ asap especially in the details.

Meth and I enjoyed the little Sunday night cult action at the Roodovolt. If you get back out this way and have any spare time you'll have to come down and have dinner with us. I always like to think ⁷ you're ~~you're~~ here.

I checked on what I had said about Dewey Johnson in the Tree story. I haven't got the final draft but I believe that I had out a direct reference to him. I'm anxious to see what you did to the story in the way of editing it.

I'm giving you the info you wanted in a separate, more formal letter. You can use it as you see fit.

Hope your talk in Cleveland is a success and that you get back out this way soon.

As ever

Ed Ruppelt

PS I just finished the other letter. It sounds a little stupid in spots. I tried to make it sound as if we weren't especially friends since the AP seems to tie you and Al together like that. I thought it would hold more weight if people didn't say "Oh they are friends and he would say anything". If this isn't OK let me know and I'll re-do it. It's later than the doell and my father has evidently worked out for the evening. I do want to get it out so I'll do what it or 10.

McDONALD INTERVIEW WITH NEWHOUSE & WIFE

Dr. James E. McDonald, professor of meteorology and atmospheric physics at the University of Arizona, in 1970 interviewed Delbert C. Newhouse, the Navy chief photographer who filmed unidentified disc-shaped objects over Utah on July 2, 1952, and his wife who first saw the objects.

They were driving cross country to a new duty station at the time, and she persuaded him to stop the car for a better look. Following are excerpts of a May 4, 1970, letter from McDonald to Arthur C. Lundahl. Before he worked for the Central Intelligence Agency as chief of the National Photographic Interpretation Center, Lundahl had supervised the analysis of the Utah film at the Navy photographic laboratory near Washington, D.C.

I had the double benefit of getting comments from both of them [Newhouse and his wife] she was the one who first spotted the objects and watched them for an estimated minute or so while she was trying to persuade Newhouse to stop the car for a better look. ...

Both of them emphasized that it must have taken two or three minutes for Newhouse to hunt through their luggage and locate the camera and film, which were in separate suitcases. In that initial period, the objects were considerably closer to them than at the time he finally began shooting, Newhouse stressed. ...

As you will recall, one of the key points that I wanted to check with Newhouse concerned the description given by Ruppelt (and repeated in Baker's analysis as reproduced in the 1968 Congressional hearings), namely, that they appeared to be silvery-gray, "gunmetal," and like two pie pans face-to-face. Both Newhouse and his wife fully confirmed that, Newhouse comparing the shape to a *discus* in his comments to me.

Mrs. Newhouse pointed out that they occasionally tipped, so that their round pro-

jected area, as seen in the initial portions of the sighting when they were nearly overhead, was replaced occasionally by a side-view exhibiting their discoid shape. There was not the slightest equivocation or any element of uncertainty as either of them discussed that very important point.

I asked Newhouse if it was correct that he had given that description to Ruppelt after the latter had left the Air Force. He confirmed that, saying that the only time he personally talked with Ruppelt was at a filming session for that movie entitled "UFO" produced in about 1954 or 1955. He guessed that meeting must have been in 1954, and Al Chop was also present at that discussion. He brought out the important point that he also stressed the visually observed shape in those early portions of the sighting when he was interviewed at his duty station in Oakland [California] by an Air Force officer. ...

I should add that Newhouse returned to the above point several times in the course of our 50-minute telephone conversation, since, as he remarked, the matter of the visual observation was extremely important in his estimate. ...

I found it interesting to learn that no contacts of any sort have been made with Newhouse since that movie was made. This evidently included Baker as well as Hartmann and the Colorado project team. I was particularly surprised that Bob Baker had not contacted him, when doing that analysis for Douglas [Aircraft Corp.] in 1956.

Newhouse had some very negative comments to make about Condon, whose bias he seemed to sense quite clearly. He had read the Condon Report and made disparaging comments about [it].

[Editorial note: About 1959 Newhouse visited the NICAP office in Washington, D.C.. I talked with him at length and asked him a number of questions. He also emphasized to me that he and his wife had distinctly seen the "double-saucer" shape, and that when a copy of the film (not the original) was returned to him after analysis, the filmed sequence showing the discoidal shape had been removed. - R.H.]

BRIEF HISTORY OF TV DOCUMENTARIES AND DISCUSSIONS

UFOs have been cussed and discussed for well over 50 years on American television, seldom amounting to anything approaching quality journalism. The erratic coverage of this topic is worthy of consideration by historians of journalism, and by historians in general. Presented here is a first rough draft of an annotated chronology of UFO documentaries, motion pictures, and "talk show" discussions presented by TV networks and major broadcasting companies.

Dec. 29, 1953: ABC Radio *Town Meeting of the Air*, moderated debate between Maj. Donald E. Keyhoe and skeptic Jonathan Leonard. (See inset of transcript cover.)

1956: United Artists (Greene-Rouse productions) documentary motion picture film *UFO* for theater release. Real film clips, classic UFO cases, high-caliber witness interviews.

Jan. 28, 1958: *Armstrong Circle Theater*, CBS-TV documentary, *UFOs: Enigma of the Skies*. Air-Force censored broadcast. (See Vol. I, No. 6, 2005.)

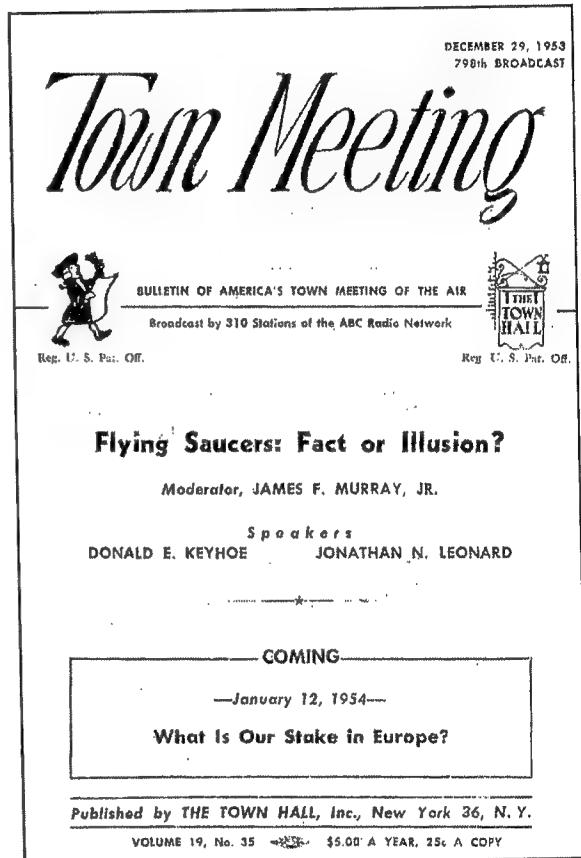
Mar. 8, 1958: Mike Wallace, ABC-TV interview with Maj. Donald E. Keyhoe. (See Vol. II, No. 1, 2005.)

Dec. 5, 1960: Dave Garroway on the NBC-TV *Today* program interviewed Maj. Keyhoe and Lt. Col. Lawrence J. Tacker, USAF. (See Vol. I, No. 4, 2004.)

Mid-May 1964: ABC-TV, Los Angeles, was filming a UFO series.

Aug. 23, 1964: ABC-TV affiliate KGO-TV, San Francisco, *Golden Gate Story* 30-minute program.

Mid-November 1964: CBS-TV News, New York, filmed an interview with Maj. Keyhoe at the NICAP office for the Mike Wallace morning news.



Jan. 21, 1965: ABC-TV affiliate KGO-TV, San Francisco, program on NICAP and UFOs.

Jan. 27, 1965: Maj. Keyhoe appeared on *The Les Crane Show*, ABC-TV.

Apr. 13, 1965: CBS-TV program with Walter Cronkite and Eric Sevareid discussed alleged Soviet detection of space signals and UFOs.

(Continued on next page)

Historical UFO Programs, continued

Apr. 20, 1965: Dave Garroway hosting the ABC-TV *Nightlife* program interviewed Maj. Keyhoe.

Fall 1965: NBC-TV News, Chicago. UFO documentary.

Oct. 19, 1965: ABC-TV *Nightlife* program hosted by Les Crane, included a UFO discussion with several guests, one Rod Serling (pro-UFO) and another Dr. Peter Goldreich, astronomy professor (skeptic)

Feb. 27, 1966 *The Open Mind*, NBC-TV public affairs program, *Are Flying Saucers Only Science Fiction?* Moderated debate between pro- and anti-UFO people. (See Vol. I, No. 2, 2004.)

May 10, 1966: CBS-TV, New York, "CBS Reports" special *UFO: Friend, Foe or Fantasy?*, Joseph Wershba producer, narrated by Walter Cronkite. An allegedly "objective" look at UFOs which proved to be far from it.

The 1966 CBS-TV special generated a spate of highly articulate angry letters from viewers who felt that it was an extremely biased presentation. (Copies on file in Donald E. Keyhoe Archives.) Among them was a letter from Walter N. Webb, excerpts from which follow.

You and CBS-TV are normally to be commended for your excellent coverage of space events...But I was frankly disappointed and discouraged after watching the UFO program....CBS could have performed a real public service by treating this fascinating subject openly and courageously without bias. Instead, what resulted was a program heavily slanted toward the anti-UFO side of the controversy.

The only good UFO sighting...was the recent Dexter, Michigan case...Why didn't you mention such cases as Socorro, New Mexico....a UFO landing and takeoff witnessed by a policeman, one of the most reliable UFO reports on record? [And incidents] where UFOs at close range have stalled auto engines, cut off headlights, and shorted out electrical power? Such events provide some of the best evidence for UFO reality. ...

Radar sightings were more or less pooh-poohed on the program and yet radar-visual sightings (where radar "paints" the same object seen visually and simultaneously by trained observers) represent tangible evidence of solid, maneuverable objects of unknown origin.

Webb also protested the emphasis given to "contactees," obviously faked movies, and uninformed opinions by skeptics. The program also alleged that scientific optical tracking programs had failed to detect any UFOs, precipitating the following response from Robin E. Sanborn, Former Chief, Film Evaluation Section, Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory (SAO). In a statement dated July 5, 1966. To the Los Angeles NICAP Subcommittee, Sanborn said:

My section [of SAO] was concerned with establishing the validity of the satellite image itself. A speck on a roll of film could be a satellite or simply a fragment of dirt, or a flaw in the emulsion, or a scratch caused by abrasion, or some unidentified light source.

(Continued on next page)

Smithsonian, continued

We were concerned only with satellite images. A film that showed a bright moving light that was not a satellite was automatically rejected. No attempt of any kind was made to identify the source of the light; it was simply assumed to be a plane, or a meteor, or a whatsit, and the film was dropped into the rejection bin.

From 10% to 15% of the films evaluated contained 'images' that were not satellites. Could we call them UFOs? No, but we most certainly could call them unidentified light sources. ... Curious minds may one day explore the question marks in the reject bin.

Essentially the same point was made earlier by SAO "Moonwatch" technician Bud Ledwith, who provided some examples of the unidentified light sources tracked and photographed by the SAO project for *The UFO Evidence* (NICAP, 1964, photographic section).

Other SAO "Moonwatch" graduates, including Walter N. Webb and Dr. J. Allen Hynek, also were aware of the fact that anomalous phenomena were being tracked and photographed with significant frequency. Dr. Hynek, in a later talk at NASA Goddard Spaceflight Center, reported a parallel example of anomalous targets detected with some regularity by Strategic Air Command radar, ignored and cast into the "reject bin" because they did not fit the profile of Soviet Union intercontinental ballistic missiles.

Charles Fort would have called these "damned data." □

AIME MICHEL: LETTERS TO NICAP



Aime Michel

During the early 1960s pioneer French UFO investigator and author Aime Michel communicated with NICAP and agreed to serve on an international panel of advisers. Following are excerpts from two of his letters.

Aime Michel to Maj. Donald E. Keyhoe, July 5, 1960:

I have just read your latest book *Flying Saucers: Top Secret* to review it in French magazines (*Science et Vie*, etc.) I shall say lots of good about it. To you personally I would like to discuss it freely. ...

Very frankly, I think that you and NICAP spend a great deal of courage and devotion along the wrong path. All your work seems indeed geared to obtain information from the U.S. Air Force; to show up the Air Force mistakes and oblige them to change their attitude. Why? The U.S. Air Force has published enough statements to show its incompetence, its ignorance and its erroneous methods. ...

Spend your time, your money and your efforts to carry on yourself a serious scientific research on the subject that interests us. ... Do yourself what the Air Force does not know how to do.

Aime Michel to Richard Hall, July 26, 1960:

Thank you very much for your letter, which enlightens me about several points. ... First of all I compliment you on your last report on E.M. effects. ... That is excellent work which makes the subject progress. ...

(Continued on next page)

Aime Michel, continued

[After arguing that the U.S. Air Force really knows no more than we do and are simply incompetent, Michel continued.]

The investigations which, seen from the public standpoint seem sloppy are *really* sloppy; [from their standpoint] why deepen the inquiries since they know that they lead to natural phenomena or hoaxes? Their sole activity consists of giving the appearance of inquiring so as not to be accused of doing nothing. ...If they published the sightings, people like you would discuss their conclusions and would trouble their do-nothingness. They don't release anything in order to prevent all discussion and continue to do nothing. ...

In my opinion, you have no chance, no hope for lifting of the blackout unless the whole problem is handed over to scientists. Why not campaign on the following points. ...the question of UFOs is a scientific one which therefore must be handled by scientists. ...

All of this may seem a bit unbelievable to you. I had trouble myself in believing it but, alas, I am now convinced. ATIC [Air Technical Intelligence Center, U.S. Air Force] is a joke, really a joke and not merely in appearance. Ruppelt acted like a joker when he commanded the commission [Project Blue Book], and it was for me a bitter disappointment to find it out.

Books by Aime Michel:

The Truth About Flying Saucers (New York: Criterion Books, 1956).

Flying Saucers and the Straight Line Mystery (New York: Criterion Books, 1958).

ALIEN INVASION OR HUMAN FANTASY?

THE 1966-67 UFO WAVE



By Richard H. Hall



UFO HISTORY PUBLICATIONS BY RICHARD H. HALL

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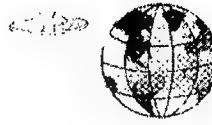
From Airships to Arnold: A Preliminary Catalogue of UFO Reports in the Early 20th Century (1900-1946), 33 pp.

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EDITORIAL

As of the end of July 1952, the historical record shows clearly that top Air Force officials considered UFOs to be of extraterrestrial origin. Military and commercial airline pilots both had encountered high-performance objects that also were recorded on ground and airborne radar. Yet the Air Force viewpoint did not prevail.

Although the reasons are complex and will be discussed at length in future issues, at bottom it was scientists -- not the Air Force -- who debunked the sightings as imaginary, setting the tone for decades to come of treating UFOs as nothing but a popular fantasy. □

HISTORICAL NEWS NOTES

Pilots Report Seeing Discs

A captain and co-pilot of a United Airlines plane en route from Salt Lake City to Spokane reported to UAL personnel here last night that they had seen two disc-like objects in flight near Mountain Home.

They related their story only on the condition that their names be withheld from publication.

The objects passed about 2000 feet below the plane, which was flying at 8000 feet, the pilot reported. The co-pilot clocked the flight of the objects for 15 seconds and estimated that they were traveling 900 miles per hour.

The fliers judged the discs to be "approximately five feet in diameter."

Previous reports of disc-like objects near UAL planes in this vicinity have been made by Capt. E.J. Smith on July 4 and Capt. Charles F. Gibian on July 29. (*The Statesman*, Boise, Idaho, August 20, 1947)

Gen. Spaatz Says Flying Discs' Investigations Still in Progress

Investigations still are in progress in an effort to solve the mystery of the flying discs, Gen. Carl A. Spaatz, chief of the U.S. Air Force, informed the *Idaho Statesman* today, but he's not convinced that such objects were flying over the United States.

The Air Force chief said it "would be unfair" to discard the possibility the saucers are the results of foreign experimentations...

Spaatz told *The Statesman* investigations have been made on discs reported seen the last two months. But he said the Air Force had formed no decision on the source of the discs. He discounted the report they were developed by German engineers in Spain. And he asked that anyone observing such objects to continue reporting them to the Army. (*The Statesman*, Boise, Idaho, December 18, 1947)

THE 1952 SIGHTING WAVE, RADAR-VISUAL SIGHTINGS ESTABLISH UFOs AS A SERIOUS MYSTERY: Part 3, What's Going On?

In late July the 1952 wave hit some kind of a peak, with fantastic sightings happening one after the other. All across the United States from July 25 through early August, Air Defense Command radar detected unknown objects flying through the skies, and jet interceptors scrambled to pursue them saw unidentified luminous objects exactly where both ground and airborne radar showed them to be. These sightings had profound implications for national defense, and accordingly were treated with great urgency. A lot of the details were kept secret from the public, but the cat was out of the bag on publicity because too many highly credible people were reporting sightings and the news media were looking for answers.

Summer 1952 Sighting Chronology

July 25/26, Washington, D.C. From 9:15 p.m. to 12:10 a.m., 4 to 8 radar UFOs at a time were observed as "good sharp targets." Two F-94 interceptors were scrambled in Delaware and one pilot made contact with a UFO, commenting about its "incredible speed." Radar tracked both the F-94 and the UFO. (Air Force Inspector General Special Inquiry report, apparently with events of July 26-27 misdated. See box insert.)

July 26, California. Night. Air Defense Command radar detected a UFO, F-94 jet interceptor scrambled, locked onto the object with its radar, crew saw a yellow-orange light. As confirmed by ground and airborne radar, the UFO played tag with the F-94, alternately accelerating away when it got close, then slowing down until it caught up again. (Ruppelt, pp. 222-223.)

July 26/27, Washington, D.C. From 9:50 p.m. until the following morning, an extraordinary series of radar-visual UFO sightings. F-94 jet interceptors

scrambled in pursuit. (See story, page 6.) Between 12:15 and 4:15 a.m., numerous radar targets appeared. Maj. Dewey Fournet and USAF spokesman Al Chop were among those at National Airport who observed "seven solid radar returns" in one instance and jet interceptors again were scrambled.

July 27, Washington, D.C. At 7:30 p.m. Both Air Force personnel and National Airport employees observed a large round object reflecting sunlight as it hovered over the U.S. Capitol Building. After about one minute the object "...wavered then shot straight up -- disappearing from sight." (Air Force intelligence report.)

July 27, Manhattan Beach, Calif. At 6:35 p.m., a group of eight witnesses including pilots and engineers observed a large silvery object moving rapidly at high altitude, then making a turn. As they watched, the object separated into seven discs which then formed into groups, circled, and sped out of sight. "It appeared as if a stack of coins had

(Continued on next page)

1952 Sighting Wave, Continued

smoothly separated," the pilot told investigators. (Air Force Intelligence report.)

July 28, McGuire AFB, New Jersey. At 0600 hours Ground Control Approach detected several unidentified "clearly defined radar targets" within a 30-mile radius. At one point eight of the targets lined up in a "perfect spaced row." At 0610 hours control tower personnel using binoculars observed an oblong UFO with yellow-orange lights inbound toward the base. About 5 miles out it abruptly made a sharp turn and moved away. (Air Intelligence Information Report, Aug. 6, 1952.)

July 28, Washington, D.C. Daily newspapers headlined a United Press story from Washington reporting that the Air Defense Command had ordered its pilots to pursue and, if necessary, "shoot down" UFOs sighted anywhere in the country.

July 28, Washington, D.C. President Harry Truman at a National Security Council meeting asked the CIA to look into the UFO question.

July 29, Washington, D.C. CAA radar in the early morning tracked 8 to 12 UFOs at a time traveling about 100-120 m.p.h. in a 10-mile arc around the Nation's Capital. When an Eastern Airlines pilot tried to check on the radar targets at CAA request at 3:00 a.m., he saw nothing. The targets disappeared from CAA radar screens when the airliner approached, then "came back in behind him" after he passed through the area. July 29,

On July 26, 1952, while UFOs were being tracked on radar at Washington National Airport, newsmen were asked to leave the room on the pretext of security. "The real reason for the press dismissal," said Capt. Ruppelt, "was [the belief] that this night would be the big night in UFO history—the night when a pilot would close in and get a good look at a UFO—and they didn't want the press to be in on it." (Ruppelt, p. 219.)

Washington, D.C. What was characterized as the largest Air Force press conference since the end of World War II was held, with Maj. Gen. John A. Samford, Director of Air Force Intelligence, attributing the radar-visual UFO sightings to weather effects, "temperature inversions" that caused "radar mirages."

July 29, Port Huron, Michigan. At 9:40 p.m. CST an Air Force radar station plotted an unidentified target moving at 550 knots. An F-94 in the area was asked to investigate, and its airborne radar locked onto the UFO which appeared as a bright flashing colored light. The object, showing on ground radar along with the F-94, outdistanced the interceptor.

August 1, Near Yaak, Montana. Air Defense Command radar just before dawn tracked an unidentified object, sighted visually as a dark, cigar-shaped object. (Ruppelt, p. 256.)

August 1, Bellefontaine, Ohio. Air Force radar detected an unidentified target near Wright-Patterson AFB in late morning and two F-86 fighter jets in the

(Continued on next page)

1. In light of recent wide publicity concerning the above subject, I caused a check to be made for the purpose of determining the basis of recent releases to news media.

2. We were advised by the current Intelligence Branch, Estimates Division, AFIOIN, which has staff responsibility with respect to these reports, that much of the publicity of the past few days is the result of a radar sighting of unidentified aerial objects by the Civil Aeronautics Administration at National Airport at 2115 hours, 25 July 1952. These sightings continued from 2115 hours, 25 July until 0010 hours on 26 July, and were described by radar operators as "good sharp targets." They were observed in numbers from four to eight.

3. At 2320 hours, 25 July 1952, two (2) Air Force F-94s were dispatched from New Castle AFB, Delaware, for the purpose of intercepting objects which have been sighted by radar. One of the F-94s reportedly made visual contact with one of the objects and at first appeared to be gaining on it, but the object and the F-94 were observed on the radar scope and appeared to be traveling at the same approximate speed. However, when it attempted to overtake the object, the object disappeared both from the pursuing aircraft and the radar scope. The pilot of the F-94 remarked of the "incredible speed of the object."

Air Force Inspector General Office Special Inquiry on Radar-Visual UFO Sightings

1952 Sighting Wave, Continued

vicinity were vectored toward it to investigate. They made visual contact with an object more than 10,000 feet above them that appeared to be 24-40 feet in diameter. One of the pilots made a camera run and his radar gunsight received a weak "return" (target). According to the Air Force, the film later showed a fuzzy small image, but no photographic analysis report has ever been released. The possibility that the object was a balloon was considered, but the investigators ruled that out. Radar had tracked the UFO moving at 400 knots, as the two aircraft and the UFO appeared simultaneously on the radar scope.

Air Force investigators labeled the sighting an "unknown," adding the

comment: "It is obvious that all eyes and antennas were fixed on the same object."

August 1, Albuquerque, N.M. At 9:50 p.m. a Scripps-Howard reporter saw a cluster of glowing white objects overhead. The objects shifted around into various patterns, including a perfect V at one point. "Their shifts in position were incredibly swift and fantastically violent," he said. "They made a flying saucer believer out of me." (New York World-Telegram, Aug. 2, 1952.)

Ruppelt, Edward J. *The Report on Unidentified Flying Objects* (New York: Doubleday, 1956).

(Next Issue, Part 3: The Aftermath.)

WASHINGTON INVASION, JULY 26/27, 1952: UFOs ELUDE JETS

When unexplained "solid returns" began showing up on Air Route Traffic Control radar and at the Washington National Airport control tower about 9:30 p.m., Air Force investigators were called to the scene.

Among those who responded and observed the evening's events were Al Chop, Maj. Dewey Fournet, Pentagon Monitor of the UFO project, and Navy Lieutenant Holcomb, an electronics expert on assignment to Air Force intelligence. All three saw the radar targets and listened to the radio communications as jet fighters tried to intercept the UFOs.

Maj. Fournet and Lt. Holcomb wrote a report of their personal observations and information obtained via interviews for an Air Force general, excerpts from which follow:

This incident involved u/i [unidentified] targets observed on the radar scopes at the Air Route Traffic Control Center and the tower, both at Washington National Airport, and the Approach Control Radar at Andrews AFB. In addition, visual observations were reported to Andrews and Bolling AFB and to ARTC Center, the latter by pilots of commercial a/c [aircraft] and one CAA a/c... This report covers the facts obtained from Washington National A/P personnel, the USAF Command Post and the AFOIN [Air Force Office of Intelligence] Duty Officer log....

Varying numbers (up to 12 simultaneously) of u/i targets on ARTC radar scope. Termed by CAA personnel as "generally, solid returns," similar to a/c return except slower. No definable pattern of maneuver except at very beginning about 2150 EDT, 4 targets in rough line abreast with about 1-1/2 mile spacing moved slowly together [estimated less than 100 m.p.h.] on

a heading of 110. At the same time 8 other targets were scattered throughout the scope.

ARTC checked Andrews Approach Control by telephone at 2200 EDT and ascertained that they were also picking up u/I targets ... intermittently for another 3+ hours ARTC Center controllers also report that a CAA flight inspector, Mr. Bill Schreve, flying a/c #NC-12 reported at 2246 EDT that he had visually spotted 5 objects giving off a light glow ranging from orange to white; his altitude at time was 2200 ft. Some commercial pilots reported visuals ranging from "cigarette glow" (red-yellow) to "a light."

At 2238 EDT the USAF Command Post was notified of ARTC targets. Command Post notified ADC [Air Defense Command] and EADF [Eastern Air Defense Command] at 2245, and 2 F-94s were scrambled from Newcastle [AFB, Delaware] at 2300 EDT. ARTC controlled F-94s after arrival in area and vectored them to targets with generally negative results.... However, one pilot mentioned seeing 4 lights at one time and a second time as seeing a single light ahead but unable to close whereupon light "went out."

[Fournet and Holcomb arrived on the scene at 12:15 a.m.] Lt. Holcomb observed scopes and reported "7 good, solid targets." He made a quick check with airport Weather Station and determined that there was a slight temperature inversion (about 1 degree) from the surface to about 1000 ft. However, he felt that the scope targets at that time were not the result of this inversion and so advised the Command Post with the suggestion that a second intercept flight be requested.

The second flight of F-94s was sent, but no strong radar targets remained when they arrived and no further events of significance occurred that morning. In a section labeled "Remarks," Fournet and Holcomb added:

Some [ARTC radar crew members] commented that the returns appeared to be

(Continued on next page)

Washington Invasion, Continued

from objects "capable of dropping out of the pattern at will." Also that returns had "creeping appearance." One member of crew commented that one object to which F-94 was vectored just "disappeared from scope" shortly after F-94 started pursuing. All crew members emphatic that most u/i [unidentified] returns were "solid."

Maj. Fournet called Capt. Edward J. Ruppelt at 5:00 a.m., July 27, to brief him on what had transpired overnight. "The reporters and photographers were asked to leave the radar room on the pretext that classified radio frequencies and procedures were being used in vectoring the interceptors," Ruppelt later reported. "All civilian air traffic was cleared out of the area and the jets moved in." But he knew that pretext was absurd.

"The real reason for the press dismissal, I learned, was that not a few people in the radar room were positive that this night would be the big night in UFO history -- the night when a pilot would close in and get a good look at a UFO -- and they didn't want the press to be in on it."

Just as the two F-94s arrived in the area, the radar targets all disappeared. At the same time unidentified radar targets appeared in the vicinity of Langley AFB near Newport News, Virginia, and unidentified bright lights were observed "rotating and giving off alternating colors." (Editorial note: The UFOs also were observed over the Eastern Shore of Maryland shortly after they disappeared from the Washington, D.C., area, as reported in Eastern Shore newspapers.)

"I saw several bright lights. I was at my maximum speed, but even then I had no closing speed....Later I chased a single bright light which I estimated about 10 miles away. I lost visual contact with it [at] about 2 miles." -- Lt. William Patterson, F-94 pilot who chased UFOs over Washington, D.C.

An F-94 pilot in the vicinity of Newport News was vectored toward a UFO, saw a light and got a radar lock-on, but it was broken in a few seconds. He obtained two more brief radar lock-ons before giving up the pursuit.

Ruppelt continued: "A few minutes after the F-94s left the Washington area, the unidentified targets were back on the radarscopes in that same area. ... A few minutes after the F-94 over Newport News had the last lock-on broken, the targets came back on the scopes at Washington National."

When Maj. Fournet completed his briefing, Ruppelt said his first question was whether the radar targets could have been caused by the weather. "Dewey said that everybody in the radar room was convinced that the targets were very probably caused by solid metallic objects. There had been weather targets on the scope too, he said, but those were common to the Washington area and the controllers were paying no attention to them."

(Ruppelt, pp. 217-222)

These sightings were, in a very real sense, the last straw. President Harry Truman wanted to know what was going on. Newsmen and the public were clamoring for the facts, and the Air Force was forced to hold a major press conference to explain the reports. □

EAST GERMANY 1950 LANDING CASE, HUMANOID PILOTS SEEN

The 1952 sighting wave chronology in the previous issue included an entry dated "July (1st week)" for the sighting of a landed UFO and two humanoid beings in the Soviet zone of Berlin. Ted Bloecker submitted a detailed report on the case, including the correct date: June 17, 1950. Herr Oskar Linke had fled to the west from East Berlin in 1951, and found reason in 1952 (probably due to UFO sightings then in the news) to file a report on his 1950 sighting.

Bloecker's 1980 report summarizes the 1952 news coverage of Herr Linke's sworn report and quotes from first-hand information obtained from the witness by Dr. Leon Davidson. Following are some paraphrases and quotes from the report.

At the time of the sighting Herr Linke was the 49-year-old mayor of Gleimershausen, a small village in southern Thuringia, near the West German frontier. On June 17, 1950, he and his daughter, Gabrielle, 11, were traveling to Haselbach on a motorcycle with sidecar about 2:30 a.m. when a tire blew out, so they continued on foot pushing the machine.

Gabrielle spotted what she thought were two deer in a meadow, and the pair worked their way through the brush to have a look. When they had come within about 80 meters, Herr Linke realized that the "deer" were two human-like figures dressed in heavy garments made of "a shimmering, metallic substance." The figures, that he assumed were Russians, bent over "as if studying something on the ground."

After leaving Gabrielle behind he approached cautiously to within about 15 yards and peered over a small ridge at them. At this point he saw a large object about 40-50 feet in diameter shaped "like an oval warming pan or flask...about eight feet high....There were two rows of holes along the sides, about a foot in diameter....Out of the top of the metallic object rose a black, cylindrical 'conning tower' about ten feet high."

Herr Linke watched the two men and the machine at close range for about 25 minutes. The two figures apparently communicated with each other, making a lot of gestures, but he heard no voices. One of them had a small box-like device on his chest with a light that blinked on and off at intervals.

Finally, Gabrielle called out to her father. "The sound must have reached the two figures," Linke reported, "for they rushed back to the object, clambered rapidly up the side to the 'conning tower,' and disappeared inside." He noticed that their manner of locomotion "was a glide, similar to that of bears."

The outer edge of the craft began to glow, and a humming sound was heard. The glow and sound intensified as the object began rising off the ground, the "conning tower" retracted into the top and then emerged from the bottom. Exhaust-like flames were emitted from around the edge.

"From the swirling effect of the glowing 'exhaust,'" he said, "I got the impression the whole object was spinning like a top." It rose off the ground, a blast of air flattening the

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East Germany Sighting, Continued

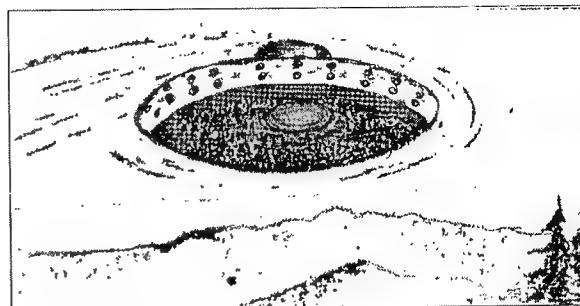
grain in the adjacent field, and hovered briefly at about 100 feet. Then it accelerated upward emitting a whistling sound similar to that of a falling bomb. Gabrielle, who had been watching from a distance, later said: "I heard a very loud noise coming from the meadow and I saw a burning [luminous?] disc fly up into the air.

Her father said that the machine rose and flew off horizontally in an ascending path "gaining height over the hills and forest toward Stockheim," a town 10 kilometers south-southwest of Haselbach in West Germany.

Herr Linke and Gabrielle proceeded to examine the landing site and found "a circular depression, evidently freshly made, where the earth had been driven down. [It was] exactly the shape of the 'conning tower.'" Several local people later reported independently that they had seen a comet-like flying object at that time.

Believing that he had seen a secret Russian craft and its pilots, Herr Linke said little about the experience. But as word of it began to spread he became fearful of reprisals and eventually he fled with his family to the West. He had never heard of "flying saucers" until after he resettled in West Berlin.

Starting in 1958, Dr. Leon Davidson (who believed that UFOs were secret U.S. devices) contacted Herr Linke, verified his credentials, and asked him a series of questions in an exchange of letters over the next year. The salient features of his answers have been incorporated into the report.



Sketch adapted from 1952 newspaper story

Regrettably, Davidson (assuming that Linke had seen a secret earthly craft) asked no questions about what the beings looked like other than whether they appeared "human" or "humanoid." In answer to this, Linke mentioned their unusual form of locomotion.

Some questions that, in hindsight, would have been important are: "Were their faces visible or were they wearing headgear or clothing that concealed their faces?" "Did you see their hands or fingers, or feet?" "Were their heads and limbs proportional to those of normal human beings?"

Linke had said that their locomotion was like that of bears, a sort of gliding motion. But when they hastily climbed onto the "conning tower" of the craft just before departure, how did they use their arms and legs? Did their heads turn and look around?

Although his questions resulted in some information that we otherwise would not have known, Davidson's approach also provides a cautionary example of how investigator biases sometimes can cause the loss of potentially important information.

Source: *Herr Linke and the Flying Warming Pan*, by Ted Bloecher, October 5, 1980. Copyright 1980 by Ted Bloecher.

FRENCH 1950 LANDING CASE, HUMANOID BEINGS EMERGED

About a month after the East Berlin sighting reported on the previous page, a retired pilot in Guyancourt, France, M. Claude Blondeau, had a similar sighting. As later reported by *Point de Vue* (a weekly newspaper), he stated:

At 11 p.m. on July 23, 1950, I was walking along the edge of the airfield. In the darkness I glimpsed two objects resembling two enormous hollow plates, about 5 meters in diameter. All around the edge they were fitted with rectangular portholes. The lower surface of these saucers opened, and two men emerged. They were about 170 cm [5 ft. 7 in.] tall, and wore dark blue flying suits.

(Source: CSI of New York sightings card file.)

Philip J. Klass, Aviation Editor

Aviation editor Philip J. Klass, 85, died in Cocoa, Florida, August 9, 2005. Both the *Washington Post* and the *New York Times News Service* in obituaries published August 11 and August 14, respectively, while mentioning his employment as an aviation journalist focused primarily on his claim to fame as a debunker of "flying saucers and those who claim to see them" or of "reports of visits from outer space."

These news organizations praised Klass' alleged application of "careful, reasoned analysis" to find mundane explanations for UFO sightings as natural phenomena and conventional objects.

THE ORIGINAL "FLYING SAUCERS": REVIEWING THE RECORD

Veteran pilot Kenneth Arnold's UFO sighting on June 24, 1947, gave rise to the name "flying saucers" when he told newsmen that the objects he saw flew like a saucer does when you skip it across water.

Interviewed by Associated Press, Arnold's first-hand account appeared in newspapers all across the country on June 27. Considering the skeptical attempts in recent years to explain his sighting as everything from pelicans to secret Navy aircraft, it is worth reviewing his exact words. Some excerpts quoted from his description follow.

Nine crescent-shaped objects flying at a speed that Arnold clocked at about 1,200 m.p.h. were observed moving in and out of mountain peaks near Mount Rainier.

First he saw a flash of reflected sunlight, "Then I saw them, weaving and ducking in and out [of the peaks] as they came south not more than 500 feet over the plateau. They looked like they were rocking. I looked for tails but suddenly realized they didn't have any. They were half-moon shaped, oval in front and convex in the rear....

"I thought they might be jet planes, and I clocked them. Then when I saw they had no tails and I realized how fast they were going, I knew they were like nothing I had ever heard of before. There were no bulges or cowlings; they looked like a big flat disk [and moved back and forth] like the tail of a Chinese kite."

(*Portland Journal*, Oregon, June 27, 1947, from Associated Press.)

APRIL 1966 RAVENNA CASE REVISITED: NEW INTERVIEWS REPORTED

While investigating an abandoned automobile in the early hours of April 17, 1966, in Ravenna, Ohio, Deputy Sheriffs Dale Spaur and Barney Neff suddenly were engulfed in the light from a brightly illuminated craft that rose up from the woods and hovered overhead. They ended up chasing the object across the state and into Pennsylvania, with several other police officers from separate jurisdictions joining in.

This highly significant case recently was revisited by reporter James Renner for *Cleveland Scene*, an online news service. Renner reconstructs the case in good detail, and adds follow-up information from interviews with the family of Police Chief Gerald Buchert of Mantua, Ohio, and others.

Chief Buchert also witnessed the object, which he described as "like two table saucers put together." When it was reported that he had taken a photograph of the object, Buchert was inundated by the news media from all over the country in the following days. The Air Force glibly dismissed his photograph as a camera error, and he perceived that citizens thought he was crazy. Buchert's wife, Joan, is quoted as saying, "My husband lost 20 pounds in three days."

But a number of people, including a local Catholic priest, told the Buchert's privately that they had also seen the UFO and the testimony of so many police officers was considered to be very convincing.

When the Air Force claimed, in a statement by Major Hector Quintanilla, that the officers had been chasing the

Planet Venus distorted by atmospheric conditions, they were all made to look foolish. Buchert's son, Harry, who is now police chief in Mantua, says his father almost resigned as a result of the ridicule, but instead kept a detailed scrapbook of all the evidence.

The *Cleveland Scene* reporter also conducted interviews with Hector Quintanilla's son, Karl; Dr. J. Allen Hynek's son, Paul (Quintanilla had not consulted Dr. Hynek on this case); and other surviving family members of key people involved. Dale Spaur's life was ruined by the event, and he never recovered from the resulting personal trauma and ridicule, quitting his job and leaving his wife. As of 2002 he was reported to be living in isolation in West Virginia.

About 6 months after the sighting, Barney Neff refused to be interviewed by a newspaper, but his wife said: "I hope I never see him like he was after the chase. He was real white, almost in a state of shock. It was awful."

The *Cleveland Scene* article also reports that Maj. Hector Quintanilla was focusing on golf after retirement from the Air Force, until a golf-cart accident resulted in head injuries from which he never completely recovered, and he died in 1997. He lived long enough to see his son become a UFO "believer" who worked as a staff member on the production of several television UFO documentaries.

Source: "Strangers in the Night," by James Renner, March 31, 2004 (www.clevescene.com).

UNITED NATIONS INTEREST IN UFOs, 1950s - 1970s

On at least three occasions between October 1959 and December 1978, the subject of UFOs was broached before the United Nations (UN).

A United Press International story datelined New York City, October 28, 1959, quoted Dr. Vasco Viera Garin, Portuguese delegate to the UN, as suggesting to the General Assembly Political Committee during a debate on proposed disarmament, that it could leave us vulnerable to attack from some other planet.

He stated that although it might seem far-fetched, it was not absurd to imagine the possibility of "a sudden invasion of our earth by aggressive warriors from another celestial body. [We] would cut a poor figure against Martians ... if we had, figuratively speaking, only kitchen knives and pocket slings to defend ourselves."

Early in 1966, Colman Von Keviczky, a Hungarian-born employee of the UN Office of Public Information, made headlines with an Associated Press story when he proposed to Secretary-General U Thant that the UN establish a network to observe UFOs.

Von Keviczky had the reputation of being a somewhat wild-eyed UFO believer; however, UFO sightings were beginning to pick up again and making the news. Then in March 1966 a major wave of sightings began, generating widespread publicity.

On February 20 Lucien L. Lemieux, secretary to U Thant, contacted NICAP and requested information. Richard Hall

replied on March 7, supplying the requested information, offering help and guidance, and full support for "any scientific study or reappraisal of the entire matter."

Mr. Lemieux responded on March 9:

Dear Mr. Hall,

I have received your letter of March 7 and I wish to thank you for its informative contents.

I have shown your letter to the Secretary-General and he has asked me to inform you that at the moment he is looking into the matter of Unidentified Flying Objects and he will let you know, at an early date, the steps he proposes to take in this connexion.

Yours sincerely, Lucien L. Lemieux
Secretary to the Secretary-General

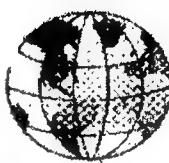
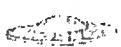
In September 1966 the UN *Secretariat News* (staff newsletter), Vol. XXI, No. 16, included a 2-1/2 page article by Donald K. Estrella, "What Are They? Where Do They Come From? What Are They Doing Here?" The article described NICAP and cited information at length taken from our publications.

In 1967 U Thant arranged for Dr. James E. McDonald to address the UN Outer Space Affairs group, which he did eloquently on June 7. McDonald urged immediate UN attention to UFOs as a clear-cut international problem.

The most extensive UN discussion of UFOs took place in 1978 when a group of scientists and UFO witnesses presented their case before the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. (To be continued in next issue.)

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September-October 2005



April 7, 1952 cover. An inconspicuous headline says:
"There is a Case for Interplanetary Saucers"

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EDITORIAL

In order to give adequate coverage to the extraordinary 1952 UFO sighting wave, it was necessary to devote a large portion of this issue to the sighting chronology. Future issues will include more balanced coverage of sightings, news, historical notes, commentaries, and other materials.

Next issue will begin reporting on the aftermath -- scientific, political, and otherwise -- of the 1952 wave, starting with the Central Intelligence Agency entry into the picture as hosts of the January 1953 Robertson Panel study of UFOs and the resulting repression of serious attention to the evidence for a long time to come. □

COVER STORY & 1952 NOTE

The LIFE Magazine cover story for April 7, 1952 other than Marilyn Monroe bore the rather inconspicuous headline "There Is a Case for Interplanetary Saucers" in relatively small type. Inside, the story headlined "Have We Visitors From Space?" reported 10 unexplained UFO incidents based on Air Force case histories, the story strongly suggesting that the answer was "Yes!" Further, Capt. E.J. Ruppelt in his 1956 book reported that the article was inspired by high-ranking Air Force generals.

The July 29, 1952, story (see page 5) about pilots being ordered to "shoot them down" if necessary begins as follows:

The Air Force, stumped by the inability of 600-mile-an-hour jet planes to catch "flying saucers," turned today to a new type camera to solve the 5-year-old sky mystery. [Jet pilots are on 24-hour watch] to chase the mysterious objects and to "shoot them down" if they ignore orders to land.

Unless you were there, it is difficult to imagine the confusion over seemingly contradictory Air Force statements and actions related to UFOs. Why chase and try to shoot down mirages caused by hot weather? Why try to shoot them down in any case if, as Gen. Samford claimed, the observed objects (or illusions?) have shown no evidence of aggressive intent or hostility?

Other historical evidence shows that the mirage explanation was merely a stalling tactic, and as the LIFE article demonstrates, senior Air Force officers were really convinced that UFOs were interplanetary in origin. □

**Pentagon 1952 Press Conference on UFOs:
MAJ.-GEN. JOHN A. SAMFORD, DIRECTOR OF AIR
FORCE INTELLIGENCE, SAYS WEATHER IS CAUSE**

The spectacular radar-visual UFO sightings throughout July 1952 set off a chain of events that reverberated for several decades. Frustrated by their inability to corner or "capture" a UFO, the Air Force ordered its pilots to shoot one down if necessary. President Harry Truman wanted to know what was going on, and set in motion a study by the Central Intelligence Agency.

Meanwhile, the public clamor for information resulted in a very large press conference on July 29, 1952, headed by Maj. Gen. John A. Samford, the Air Force Director of Intelligence. Other Air Force personnel present were Maj. Gen. Roger M. Ramey, Air Force Operations Director; Col. Donald L. Bower, Technical Analysis Division, Air Technical Intelligence Center (ATIC); Capt. Roy L. James, Electronics Branch, ATIC; Capt. Edward J. Ruppelt, Aerial Phenomena Branch; and Burgoine L. Griffing, Electronics Branch, ATIC.

In his opening remarks, Maj-Gen. Samford said:

I just want to state our reason for concern about this. The Air Force feels a very definite obligation to identify and analyze things that happen in the air that may have in them menace to the United States... [we] have undertaken to analyze between a thousand and two thousand reports dealing with this area [eventually explaining the bulk of them]. However, there have remained a percentage of this total, on the order of 20 percent of the reports, that have come from credible observers of relatively incredible things. [Since we have not been able to explain these

reports] we keep being concerned about them. However, I'd like to say that the difficulty with disposing of these reports is largely based upon the lack of any standard measurement or any ability to measure these things which have been reported briefly by some, more elaborately by others, but with no measuring devices that can convert the thing or the idea or the phenomenon into something that becomes manageable as material for any kind of analysis that we know....

So our need, really, is to get the measurement value of these and, in the interim, lacking sufficient measure of these things to make them amenable to real analysis, we have to say that our real interest in this project is not one of intellectual curiosity but is in trying to establish and appraise the possibility of a menace to the United States. And we can say, as of now, that there has been no pattern that reveals anything remotely like purpose or remotely like consistency that we can in any way associate with any menace to the United States.

When newsmen asked whether there had been simultaneous radar sightings by more than one radar station, Gen. Samford acknowledged that this was a common occurrence. "[A] phenomenon has passed from one radar to another with a fair degree of certainty that it was the same phenomenon," he replied. When asked specifically to explain the recent simultaneous radar sightings at National Airport and Andrews AFB, Gen. Samford stated that radar picks up many things including birds, flocks of ducks, and even ice formations in the atmosphere. Then,

(Continued on next page)

Press Conference, continued

There are theories like the men who theory [sic] of light refraction which says that temperature inversion in the atmosphere can cause an image from somewhere else to be reflected in positions where it is not. If that is a correct theory, related to it is another oddity with respect to the ground effect that you get in radar....Now, the conditions that seem to produce these temperature inversions and possibly the same kind of thing for ground targets being misplaced in altitude...is somewhat typical of the kind of hot humid weather that we've been having here in the last three or four weeks. There's no reason to relate these phenomena [UFOs] to these atmospheric conditions positively, but it is a possibility.

Dr. Donald H. Menzel earlier had proposed the temperature inversion theory, now advanced tentatively by Samford when pressed by the news media. Thus was born the hot weather, temperature inversion, radar-mirage explanation for the Washington, D.C., sightings, and by extension for all the dozens of radar-visual sightings by Air Force jet interceptor pilots, often confirmed by ground radar, all over the country that summer.

Another newsman initiated a key line of questioning, and the following dialogue ensued:

The Press: General Samford, I understand there were radar experts who saw these sightings Saturday night or early Sunday morning. What was their interpretation of what they saw on the scope?

Samford: They said they saw good returns. The Press: Which would indicate that these were solid objects similar to aircraft?

Samford: No, not necessarily. We get good returns from birds.

The Press: Well, you wouldn't get as large a blip from a bird as --

Samford: No; unless it was close.

The Press: Did they report that these could have been birds?

Samford: No.

The Press: Can you get a good return from a reflected ground target, General?

Samford: I'll ask Captain James --

James: You can get a very large return from a reflected ground target.

The Press: Just as good as you might get from an object actually in flight in the air?

James: Actually thicker, It depends on the amount of bending.

The Press: And just as sharp on the scope?

James: Yes.

This line of questioning continued for some time, with newsmen pressing for an elaboration of the temperature inversion theory. Then a newsman hit on a critical point which later tended to discredit the theory altogether.

The Press: Would this [ground] reflection account for simultaneous radar sightings and visual sightings which appear to coincide on the basis of conversations between the radar operator and the observer outside?

James: There is some possibility of that due to the same effects. ...

The Press: Would these pseudo-blips cause any difficulties in combat at all?

James: Not to people that understand what's going on. They do cause difficulty.

The Press: Then the experienced operators really can tell the difference between --

James: That's correct.

The Press: How about the CAA [civilian airport radar] men?

James: I don't know.

There is much more of extraordinary historical significance in the 39-page press conference transcript.

Maj. Donald E. Keyhoe, who was there, describes the press conference in his 1953 book (pp. 71-87), including some added details and some amusing sidelights. At the conclusion he heard one reporter say, "Never heard so much and learned so little." Another replied, "What did you expect? Even if they know the answer, they wouldn't give it out now, with all this hysteria."

(Continued on next page)

Press Conference, continued



Dewey Fournet

Capt. Ruppelt in his book accuses Maj. Keyhoe of engaging in mind reading. (pp. 223-230).

"He [Samford] had to hedge on many answers to questions from the press because he didn't know the answers," Ruppelt said, continuing:

This hedging gave the impression that he was trying to cover up something more than just the fact that his people had fouled up in not fully investigating the sightings..... Major Dewey Fournet and Lt. Holcomb, who had been at the airport during the sightings, were extremely conspicuous by their absence, especially since it was common knowledge among the press that they weren't convinced the UFOs picked up on radars were weather targets. □

Fall River (MA) Herald-News, July 29, 1952

Jets Told to Shoot Down Flying Discs

Air Force Puzzled But No Longer Skeptical

By DANKELL GREENWOOD
WASHINGTON, (UPI)—The Air Force, stumped by the inability of 800-mile-an-hour jet planes to shoot down the mysterious flying discs, have a new type camera to solve the 8-year-old sky mystery.

It is the second thing under a 24-hour nationwide "alert" to chase the mysterious objects and to "shoot them down" if they ignore orders to land.

However, the Air Force concedes that none of its jets have come within range of the blinding, enigmatic flying discs.

Several pilots, according to the Air Force, have tried to shoot down the discs, but have been unable to do so because the "steady bright lights" in the sky have outflown the planes by as much as a thousand miles an hour.

The Air Force said it is receiving new reports of "flying saucers" at the rate of 100 a month.

(From Barry Greenwood newsclipping collection)

An AP spokesman said a new type camera may be able to bring the mystery to an end. "It has the camera photographs 'flying saucers' phenomena." It uses the principle of the motion picture camera to determine the composition of stars. Air Force scientists hope to determine the physical makeup of the phenomena and identify the sources.

Gen. John A. Samford, chief of Air Force Materiel Command, said the new type camera has been ordered and will be distributed to jet plane pilots as soon as they are available.

Meanwhile, as new reports are coming in pour into the Pentagon of more sightings of mysterious objects, the Air Force has issued a special "saucer" specialist from Dayton, Ohio, for a conference today.

On hand in Washington were Capt. C. Ruppelt, a former Air Force officer from the Air Technical Intelligence Center at Wright-Patterson Field.

The Air Force said it is receiving new reports of "flying saucers" at the rate of 100 a month.

The Air Force continued that its intensive investigation of more than 1,000 "saucer" reports has convinced it that the discs are not over 100 miles high and are not over 100 miles wide by an estimate.

The AP added that its investigation indicated also that they are not being controlled by a remote.

For nearly eight hours of intensive investigation, it has failed to explain the discs and has been unable to identify the objects accompanied by brilliant white and colored lights.

Two successive weekends over Washington, the capital, were visited by Air Force and Civil Aeronautic Authority radar experts. They were accompanied by a radar specialist, James M. Ritzby of the Washington Air Route Traffic Control Center.

"Green Objects"

Until unidentified objects began moving onto our radar scopes, thought people who reported the discs, nature were just seeing things," he said.

"Now I don't know what to think. I have talked with representatives of the Air Force, and they say they can't explain the appearance of the flying discs."

"All we can do is tell you what we saw on our instruments and (Continued on Page 26)

July 29, 1952, Washington, D.C.
International News Service

August-December 1952 Sighting Chronology

(Note: These sightings occurred after the July 29 news conference in which the radar-visual cases were attributed to weather phenomena, and before the January 1953 CIA Robertson Panel met.)

The object seen August 1st near Bellefontaine, Ohio, that had been tracked on radar moving at high speed and locked onto by his radar gunsight and photographed by one of the two F-86 jets sent to chase it, Ruppelt later reported, turned out to have an explanation. (Ruppelt, pp. 230-233.)

The radar track had been that of a jet aircraft with a mixed up flight plan. The interceptors, Ruppelt said, had chased and photographed a 20-foot radiosonde balloon whose transmitter box had caused the radar pick-up. This despite the statement in the Air Force Intelligence report, "It is obvious that all eyes and antennas put a fix on the same object."

In his report on the case, Maj. Donald E. Keyhoe, USMC (Ret.), notes that Maj. James B. Smith, the F-86 pilot who filmed the object, said that while he was observing the object through his telescopic gunsight, "[it] quickly accelerated, disappearing at a tremendous speed." Then, he cited and quoted directly from the Air Force Intelligence report on the case:

The ground radar squadron established two facts: Reaffirmation that the UFO moved at 400 knots (480 land miles per hour) and indications that the F-86s and the UFO appeared simultaneously on the GCI [Ground Control Intercept] scope....

(Continued on next page)

Sighting Chronology, continued

The object was obviously not a balloon, since the speed was too fast. (A radiosonde balloon had been released about 10:00 a.m. and moved off to the east, while the UFO was sighted north-northwest of the base.) The object moved against the wind, its blip size that of a normal aircraft. The object was not a known aircraft because the altitude was too high. It was not astronomical, as the dual radar returns eliminate this.

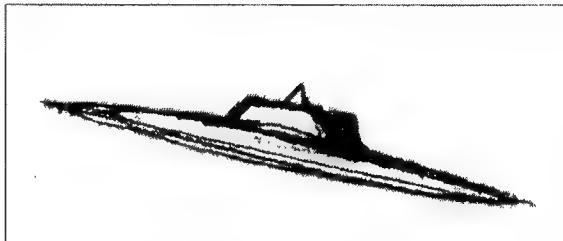
The intelligence report, given to Maj. Keyhoe by Al Chop, concluded that the object was "Unknown." (Keyhoe, pp. 107-109.)

On August 1st, a few hours after the Bellefontaine sighting, a family in Sharonville, Ohio, and fire and safety personnel, reported seeing a brilliantly luminous oval or disc-shaped object approach rapidly from the east, stop and hover overhead, pulsating. The object wobbled at times, alternately appearing disc-shaped or elliptical. Finally it sped away over the horizon. Sharonville is less than 100 miles from Bellefontaine in southwest Ohio.

August 5, Baltimore, Maryland. Dr. James C. Bartlett, astronomer, during daylight observation of Venus at about 1:10 p.m. saw two copper-like discs with diameters of 30 minutes of arc passing to the south and east, shortly followed by two more discs with slightly raised portions in the centers. (Report to NICAP.)

August 5, Haneda AFB, Japan. Radar-visual UFO sighting. About midnight control tower personnel and other airmen observed a bright white light emanating from a dark circular object as it slowly approached the base hovering several minutes near the

control tower. An F-94 jet interceptor was scrambled to investigate and got a radar lock-on. The object suddenly sped away, clocked on radar at 300 knots. As it did so it divided into three units that flew in formation. (Air Force intelligence report.)



Kerkrade, Holland

August 7, Kerkrade, Holland. In the early morning Will Jansen, a marine engineer, observed two disc-shaped craft with dome-like superstructures. One swooped down, hovered, zig-zagged, then sped away. A second similar object was then noticed hovering farther away which eventually tilted up vertically and accelerated upwards and out of sight. (Report to CSI of Los Angeles.)

August 7, Aoulef, Sahara, Africa. Jean Doray, a French transportation official at 12:45 a.m. saw a light gray elliptical object, which he presumed to be circular after allowing for the angle of vision, emerge from the mist in the northeast and fly in a straight line to the northwest. The object was visible in the bright moonlight. He observed no trail and no sign of self-luminosity. (Michel, pp. 111-112.)

August 9, Moscow, Idaho. Ground Observer Corps spotters at about

(Continued on next page)

Sighting Chronology, continued

9:30 p.m. reported a huge glowing disc, estimated 200 feet diameter. Three F-86 jet fighters circled the object in an attempted intercept, but it abruptly sped up and outdistanced them. (Keyhoe, *Flying Saucer Conspiracy*, p. 30.)

August 12, Rapid City, S. Dakota. Capt. Edward J. Ruppelt said: "This was an unknown -- the best." At Ellsworth AFB a glowing object hovering to the East during the night was showing on radar as a solid object. Radar tracked it as it moved over the city, then back to its original position.

An F-84 jet fighter was vectored in and chased the object for 120 miles. When the pilot gave up and turned back, the object turned around and followed him, tracked by ground radar. A second F-84 chased the UFO about 160 miles and obtained a radar lock-on with his airborne radar; both the F-84 and the UFO were observed plainly on ground radar.

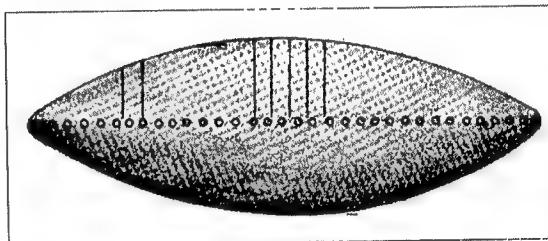
When the second pilot gave up and turned back, the UFO continued northward. Ground Observer Corps personnel in that direction, alerted by the base, saw a light speeding north. (Ruppelt, p. 303; *TRUE Magazine*, May 1954, p. 19.)

August 19, West Palm Beach, Florida. Controversial scoutmaster report of landed disc with dome, strong physical trace evidence. (Ruppelt, pp. 233-245.)

August 20, Congaree AFB, Columbia, South Carolina. Air Defense Command radar post tracked a UFO off to the east traveling at a calculated speed of 4,000 m.p.h. (Keyhoe, p. 90.)

August 24, near El Paso, Texas. An Air Force colonel piloting an F-84 to Turner AFB, Georgia, about 10:15 p.m. saw two round silvery objects flying abreast of him at 35,000 feet. One made a right turn in front of the jet. In the vicinity of El Paso one of the objects climbed straight up about 2,000 to 3,000 feet, joined by the other in close formation, disappearing at high speed. The colonel said (Air Force Intelligence Report):

From their maneuvers and terrific speed I am certain their flight performance was greater than any aircraft known today.



Pittsburg, Kansas; from Project Blue Book Special Report No. 14

August 25, Pittsburg, Kansas. At 5:35 a.m. a radio station employee driving to work noticed an elliptical object about 75 feet long hovering about 10 feet above a field, rocking slightly. He stopped and got out to look, and heard a deep throbbing sound.

The witness said that vegetation was blown around by the object when it was near the ground. As he got out of the car to investigate, the object began ascending, emitting a sound similar to that of a covey of quail, rising vertically through the broken clouds until it disappeared.

The Air Force case summary states:

(Continued on next page)

Sighting Chronology, continued

A medium-blue continuous light shone through the one window in the front section. The head and shoulders of one man, sitting motionless, facing the forward edge of the object, were visible. In the midsection of the object were several windows extending from the top to the rear edge of the object; the midsection of the ship had a blue light which gradually changed to different shades.

A lot of movement and activity was visible in the midsection, but it was not possible for the witness to tell whether it was mechanical or "human" in nature. Around the outer edge of the object was what looked like a row of closely spaced propellers, apparently mounted on a bracket and spinning rapidly in a horizontal plane. (Project Blue Book Special Report No. 14, p. 90.)

August 29, North Atlantic area. An Air Force Intelligence Report released to Maj. Donald E. Keyhoe summarized a Navy report of "Three disc-shaped objects seen during tracking of a balloon." (Keyhoe, 1953, Appendix II.)

Fifty years later a detailed account of the report finally has emerged. Writing in the U.S. Naval Institute magazine *Naval History* for October 2004, Commander Edward P. Stafford, USN (Ret.) relates what the article title describes as a "Cosmic Curiosity" observed by a Navy patrol plane flight crew under his command, operating out of Thule, Greenland.

After a mission to track a Navy "Skyhook" cosmic ray research balloon on August 29, 1952, one of his plane commanders, Lt. John Callahan, had returned looking "tense and pale deadly serious and obviously shaken."

Callahan reported a startling sighting as he and his crew had been routinely following the giant balloon, periodically observing it through binoculars.

Suddenly Lt. Callahan noticed and alerted the others to "three shining, saucer-shaped metallic objects" that apparently had attached themselves to the trailing instrument package of the balloon.

After several minutes during which the binoculars were passed around, Callahan saw that the three discs had separated from the balloon and formed into a compact V-formation. As the air crew watched, the objects executed a vertical bank to the left, accelerated to a "blinding speed" and climbed out of sight in about 3 seconds.

Cmdr. Stafford states that Lt. Callahan immediately sat down and wrote a detailed report of the incident which was sent up through the chain of command to the Office of Naval Intelligence (ONI). "A report was also made to the Air Force authorities at Thule," he says.

(Editorial comment: This case is ideal for a Freedom of Information Act request. All the names and details are there. Since Maj. Keyhoe never made much of this case in his writings, it may be that the version reported to the Air Force that he saw is less detailed. However, both it and the ONI report should be obtained for the record.)

September 12, Flatwoods, W. Virginia. Alleged "alien monster" sighting, in all probability a genuine case of hysteria stimulated by a large fireball meteor observed over several adjacent states and the District of Columbia, in the

(Continued on next page)

Sighting Chronology, continued

context of the extensive Summer 1952 newspaper reporting on UFOs.

September 14, Belle Glade, Florida. An employee at the Florida Everglades Agricultural Experiment Station at about 4:30 a.m. heard a loud humming sound and saw that the herd of cattle had bolted from the barn. Then he saw a disc-shaped object with alternate red and amber lights spaced around its rim descending to about 40 feet above the barn.

The object veered away, then returned on a different course, its glow illuminating the ground. At this point the cattle bolted again. The witness noticed an acrid odor which caused his eyes to smart. Finally the object gained altitude and flew out of sight. (*Miami Daily News*, Sept. 17, 1952.)

September 19-21, North Sea. "Operation Mainbrace" and European Continent sightings. During NATO fleet exercises involving 200 ships and 1,000 aircraft, a flurry of significant sightings occurred. An RAF jet approaching the airfield at Topcliffe, Yorkshire, was followed by a bright silvery disc that swayed back and forth, wobbling and rotating on its axis while hovering. Then the object took off at high speed. (Michel, p. 130.)

At Karup Airfield, Denmark, Air Force officers saw a shiny, metallic-appearing disc approaching from the direction of the Operation Mainbrace fleet. The object flew overhead and disappeared in clouds to the east. (Michel, p. 133.) Personnel on the aircraft carrier U.S.S. Franklin D. Roosevelt observed and photographed a silvery spherical object moving rapidly across the sky behind the fleet. A thorough check was made

and no one had launched a balloon. (Ruppelt, 257-58.)

RAF pilots flying a formation of jets over the North Sea on September 21 saw a shiny spherical object coming from the direction of the fleet. They pursued it, but gave up and turned back, then saw the object following them. (Ruppelt, p. 258.)

October 11, Newport News, Virginia. A Ground Observer Corps spotter at 2:50 p.m. observed a hovering disc-shaped object with a dome on top, reflecting sunlight. The witness watched it for 20 minutes, then called Langley Field and two F-86 jet fighters were sent up to intercept it. As the jets neared, the UFO tilted up, accelerated and sped away climbing out of sight. (Report to NICAP.)

October 13, Oshima, Japan. Maj. William D. Leet and his flight engineer on a C-54 mission about dusk observed a round unidentified object hovering in a cloud formation. After about 7 minutes the object became elliptical in appearance and sped away to the west, disappearing in seconds. (Report to NICAP.)



Marignane, France. Sketch adapted from Michel, 1956.

October 27, Marignane, France. Shortly after 2:00 a.m. a customs officer at the airport saw a light slowly descend and touch the ground, stopping about 100 yards away. Moving closer to within

(Continued on next page)

Sighting Chronology, continued

about 50 yards to investigate it, he saw that the object was elliptical, with pointed ends, and had four windows following the curve of the top surface. A flickering blue-green light was visible through the windows. As he neared it, the object took off with a "swish" sound, emitting a trail of sparks, and disappeared in 2-3 seconds. (Michel, pp. 151-152.)

November 16, Florence, S. Carolina. About 5:00 p.m. a huge glowing disc was observed through binoculars by an air traffic controller at the airport as it crossed the sky. He reported that the object tilted up steeply before climbing out of sight. About 6 minutes later a group of five round glowing objects were sighted near Landrum, S.C., and a witness took 40 feet of 8 mm color film before the objects disappeared to the west. (Keyhoe, pp. 4-5, 8-10.)

December 4, Laredo, Texas. At 8:49 p.m. an F-51 pilot flying at 6,000 feet several miles from the base suddenly noticed a fast-moving blue-white light making a sharp turn. As he banked the fighter plane toward it the object rose quickly to his level, circling at high speed, then "shot up in an odd, flitting ascent." After climbing almost 9,000 feet in a matter of a few seconds, the object dove back down to his level, and the pilot began chasing it at full power.

Suddenly the object rushed head-on at the F-51 to within about 30 feet, then flashed past his right wing so fast that it appeared only as a blur. The pilot looked back and saw the object shoot upward in another flitting climb, then plunge back down as if to make a

second pass at him. Frightened, he threw the fighter into a spiraling descent and dove down to about 2,000 feet. There the pursuing light turned away, climbing sharply, and disappeared into the night sky. (Air Force Intelligence Report.)

December 6, near Galveston, Texas. At 5:25 a.m. the crew of a B-29 bomber saw and tracked on three radar sets about 20 objects, singly and in small groups, that sped head-on toward their plane, appearing as blurs of blue-white light as they passed. Their speed was calculated at 5,240 m.p.h. Once a group of objects slowed to the speed of the bomber and paced it for about 10 seconds, then accelerated and pulled away. At the same time a huge target (a half-inch blip) appeared on the radar scope. Still moving at high speed, the smaller objects merged into the larger object, which then accelerated to about 9,000 m.p.h. and sped away. (Keyhoe, pp. 161-66; from Air Force Intelligence Report.)

December 10, Hanford, Washington. The pilot and radar observer of an F-94 jet, flying at 26,000 feet, encountered a luminous white object with dim reddish light emanating from two windows. Each time they attempted to close in on it the object reversed direction and dove away. After losing sight of it visually, they got a radar lock-on. (Air Force Intelligence report)

December 29, Northern Japan. At 7:30 p.m. an Air Force colonel in an F-84 jet fighter and other pilots independently, saw an object with steadily revolving red, white, and green lights and emitting three white

(Continued on page 12)

United Nations

Press Release

Office of Public Information
 Press Section
 United Nations, New York

Thirty-third General Assembly
 Special Political Committee
 35th Meeting
 AM SUMMARY



GA/AH/1478
 27 November 1978

GRENADA PROPOSES APPOINTMENT OF EXPERT GROUP TO SET GUIDELINES
FOR UN STUDY ON NATURE AND ORIGIN OF UFOs

Grenada proposed this morning that the Secretary-General appoint a group of experts, under the aegis of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, to define guidelines for a United Nations study of "the nature and origin of unidentified flying objects and related phenomena".

The Prime Minister of Grenada, Sir Eric Gairy, speaking this morning in the Special Political Committee to introduce the discussion on an item submitted by his delegation on this subject, introduced the draft resolution.

Other speakers this morning were Wellington Friday, Grenada's Minister of Education, and three experts who appeared as part of the delegation of Grenada: J. Allen Hynek, Jacques F. Valley, and Lieutenant Colonel Larry Coyne.

A documentary film was then presented, showing a number of reported sightings of UFOs, with Mr. Hynek narrating as the film was shown.

The Committee will meet again at 3 p.m. today to continue consideration of the item, which is entitled "Establishment of an agency or a department of the United Nations for undertaking, co-ordinating and disseminating the results of research into unidentified flying objects and related phenomena".

The draft resolution, which will be circulated before this afternoon's meeting, asks the General Assembly to recommend that the United Nations, in consultation with the appropriate specialized agencies, "initiate, conduct and co-ordinate research into the nature and origin of unidentified flying objects and related phenomena".

The Secretary-General would be requested to invite Member States, specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations to transmit to him by 31 May 1979 information and proposals which would facilitate the proposed study.

He would also be asked to appoint, at the earliest possible date, a three-member group of experts, under the aegis of the Outer Space Committee, to define guidelines for the proposed study. The group of experts would meet during the sessions of the Outer Space Committee and would report on its work, through that body, to next year's General Assembly session.

(more)

UNITED NATIONS 1978 UFO SESSION

United Nations 33rd General Assembly Agenda Item 126 on November 27, 1978, was *Establishment of an Agency or a Department of the United Nations for Undertaking, Co-ordinating and Disseminating the Results of Research Into Unidentified Flying Objects and Related Phenomena*.

The *Summary Record of the 35th Meeting*, Special Political Committee, paraphrases remarks made by Dr. J. Allen Hynek appearing as a guest member of the Grenada delegation:

[He] said that the scope and extent of the phenomenon of [UFOs] was not generally recognized. It was a phenomenon so strange and foreign to man's terrestrial mode of thought that it was frequently ridiculed by persons and organizations unacquainted with the facts...

According to his records, UFO reports had been assembled from 133 different countries...by such highly responsible persons as astronauts, radar experts, pilots, government officials and scientists....It was his considered opinion, based on many years of study and as an involved scientist, that the UFO phenomenon, whatever its origin might be, was eminently worthy of study.

Dr. Jacques Vallee and UFO witness, Lt. Col. Larry Coyne, also addressed the meeting. Coyne described the October 18, 1973, encounter between his Army helicopter and a structured UFO that had rushed at them, hovered, and illuminated the cabin.

Sighting Chronology, continued

beams of light outwards. The object also was showing on radar. When an intercept was attempted the object sped away. (Air Force Intelligence report.) □

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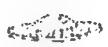
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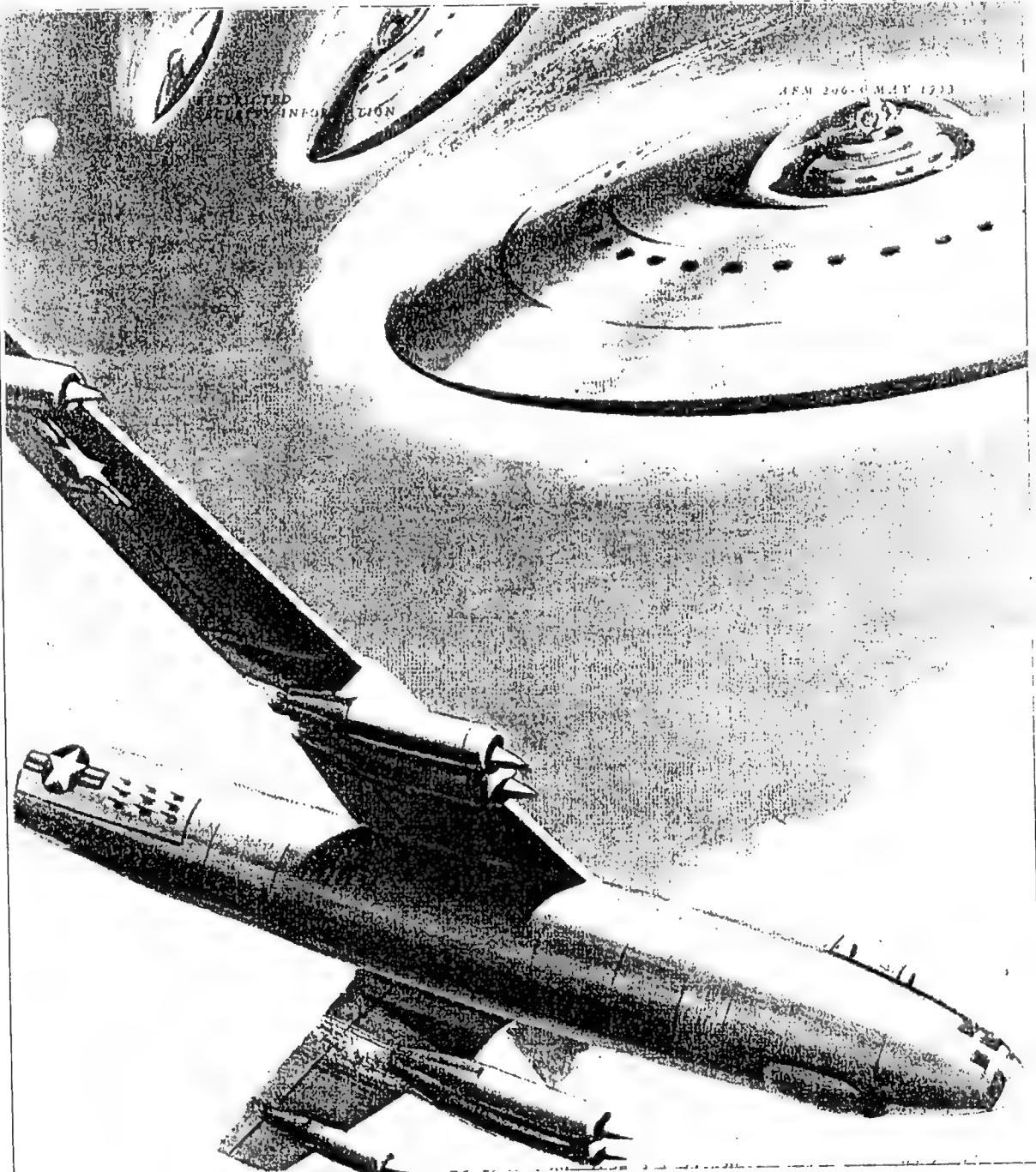
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A Publication of the Donald E. Keyhoe Archives



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EDITORIAL

The cover illustration this issue is from Air Force Manual 200-3, *Handbook for Air Intelligence Officers*, promulgated in May 1953. The manual's theme is the importance of having high grade air technical intelligence in order to avoid “technological surprise” from a foreign power.

Although UFOs are not specifically mentioned, the illustration of “flying saucers” above an Air Force bomber appears on page 9-3 of the manual, and the 1953 chronology (see page 7) shows the timing/context of its publication.

As this issue demonstrates, 1953 was a truly extraordinary year in UFO history not only in terms of sightings, but even more so with regard to behind-the-scenes military and political public policy maneuvering about UFOs.

Maj. Donald E. Keyhoe's 1953 book *Flying Saucers from Outer Space* clearly had a strong influence on the course of public policy, having an impact on public opinion with few precedents in the history of publishing.

By way of comparison, such books as *Silent Spring*, *Common Sense*, and *Uncle Tom's Cabin* come to mind; typically books that challenged our world view and trumpeted the need to wake up to new realities. *Flying Saucers from Outer Space* was, in 1953, revolutionary in its conceptualization of a world seemingly on the verge of dramatic change, presenting startling new evidence of apparent visitors from another planet.

Even more mysterious is trying to figure out what happened next. Was it a cover-up or simply head-in-the-sand denial of events too bizarre to digest? □

CIA SCIENTIFIC PANEL ASKED TO ASSESS UFO DATA

By December of 1952, following the dramatic wave of UFO sightings through the summer and fall, the then 5-years-old Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) had been tasked with studying the data and advising Government officials on a course of action.

Most well-informed writers on the subject have suggested that the sole concern of the CIA was to debunk UFOs for pragmatic reasons, but it seems exceedingly unlikely that the analysts studying the accumulated data could avoid taking UFOs seriously in private.

The repeated sightings by Air Force and Navy pilots, often with multiple airborne and ground radar confirmation, could hardly be ignored as serious evidence of real "intruders" of some kind. Furthermore, the CIA analyzed radar-scope photographs showing UFO images, the results of which study have never been made public.¹

In December 1952 the CIA finalized plans for a scientific panel to review the UFO data presented by the Air Force. The so-called Robertson Panel convened in Washington, D.C., on January 14, 1953, chaired by Dr. H.P. Robertson, a physicist and Government employee.

"All had extensive backgrounds in classified government service," Jerome Clark reported (pp. 513-15), "and all were skeptical of UFO reports....Page and Goudsmit were openly hostile to

CIA SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON UFOs

Dr. H.P. Robertson, physicist, DOD & CIA consultant, Chairman

Dr. Samuel A. Goudsmit, physicist, Brookhaven National Laboratories.

Dr. Luis Alvarez, physicist (and later Nobel Prize winner).

Dr. Thornton Page, astrophysicist and deputy director, Johns Hopkins University Operations Research Office.

Dr. Lloyd Berkner, Navy scientist and a director of the Brookhaven National Laboratories.

Associate members: Frederick C. Durant and Air Force UFO consultant, Dr. J. Allen Hynek, astronomer.

the subject." The panel, said Clark, spent a total of 12 hours reviewing 6 years of UFO data, including the 1950 Montana film and the 1952 Utah film taken by Delbert C. Newhouse (see Vol. II, No. 2). They were briefed by Capt. Edward J. Ruppelt and Maj. Dewey Fournet.

The panel's published conclusion was that most of the sightings could be explained, and it was hardly worth the effort to continue studying the reports since with better investigations the rest no doubt could be explained eventually. However, since the mass of "low-grade" UFO sighting reports were clogging up intelligence communications channels, it would be desirable to

¹ CIA documents related to UFOs also refer to their "finished intelligence reports" on the 1952 sightings, also never released.

(Continued on next page)

Robertson Panel, Continued



H.P. Robertson
circa 1949

monitored because of their strong influence on "mass thinking" and their potentially subversive nature.

The conventional wisdom is that the CIA was only concerned about what use unfriendly powers might make of UFO reports, perhaps to spread confusion or suspicion of the U.S. Government. But it seems far more likely that the skeptical Robertson Panel was solely responsible for that politically driven, Cold War viewpoint.

The scientists' extreme negative biases about UFOs that caused them to ignore reports even from technically trained and highly credible witnesses had the incidental effect of supplying a convenient "cover" for perplexed officials who were struggling to deal with a literally "incredible" situation.

Except for the continuing problem of coping with strong public interest while figuring out what to do, the authorities could now study the serious evidence they were obtaining about UFOs quietly and in secret.

Capt. Edward J. Ruppelt devoted a chapter of his 1956 book (Chapter 16, "The Hierarchy Ponders") to the

debunk UFOs and to "strip the aura of mystery" from the subject. This could be done by educating the public via mass media programs to show that the "flying saucers" were not of any significance. Also, private UFO groups should be

Robertson Panel, recounting the presentation that he made to the scientists and Maj. Dewey Fournet's study of UFO motions. About Fournet's presentation Ruppelt said:

The study was hot because it wasn't official and the reason it wasn't official was because it was so hot. It concluded that UFOs were interplanetary spaceships.

Dr. J. Allen Hynek In his 1972 book *The UFO Experience: A Scientific Inquiry*, mentions his experience on the Robertson Panel only briefly (pp. 168-69), observing that "...the panel's attention was directed largely to a defense and security problem rather than to a scientific one. ... [T]hey made the subject of UFOs scientifically unrespectable, and for nearly 20 years not enough attention was paid to the subject to acquire the kind of data needed even to decide the nature of the UFO phenomenon."

Hynek also makes the following curious statement: "The panel was not given access to many of the truly puzzling [unidentified] cases." Since he does not elaborate on this comment, it leaves us to wonder whether he meant that the limited time did not permit a full presentation, or instead that some of the strongest cases were deliberately withheld from the scientific panel for unexplained "political" reasons.

In December 1969, while preparing for the upcoming American Association for the Advancement of Science UFO symposium held in Boston, Mass., Dr. James E. McDonald called Dr. Thornton Page to discuss some issues with him. During the conversation he suggested that Page discuss his participation in

(Continued on next page)

Robertson Panel, Continued

the Robertson Panel at the symposium. Page didn't seem inclined to do that, but he did discuss his views of the panel with McDonald, acknowledging that at the time he had a strong "anti-UFO" bias.

"Page again conceded that they really didn't look at any of the cases very carefully," McDonald said. "...they would take turns carrying home a few [file folders] at night to study and would come back with their remarks next day. He agreed that it was not at all a thorough analysis of the ins and outs of the cases....Page told me that, at the time, it all seemed quite ridiculous to him....everybody on the panel [he said] regarded the UFO problem as mainly nonsense...."

After some further commentary, McDonald concluded:

What one seems to have, then, is a panel of five rather outstanding scientists meeting for about four days and really concerned with settling the question of whether the UFOs could be advanced flying craft of either Russia or the United States. Their findings were negative on both scores. Relatively little serious attention was given to the extraterrestrial hypothesis, and no truly independent checking of original case-materials, as I see the picture that emerges from Page's remarks.

Hence, this added insight into the inner workings of that Panel, plus what I already knew before, reinforces my own suspicions that there was no grand coverup engineered at that time, and that the Robertson Panel addressed itself to the question in such a way that they were most unlikely to develop any real critique of the extraterrestrial hypothesis. To me, that is of historical interest. (Personal communication from J.E. McDonald to R.H. Hall, 12/29/69.)

Historian Dr. David M. Jacobs titles a chapter of his 1975 book "The Robertson Panel and Its Effects on Air Force UFO Policy" (pp. 89-107). His lead sentence is: "Official policy on UFOs switched dramatically in 1953." His historical report provides the best single summary of what transpired during the panel sessions. Jacobs states, "The panel reviewed eight cases in detail, fifteen in general, and saw two movies," spending a total of 12 hours actually studying case reports.

Dr. Michael D. Swords, who has intensively studied the scientific and military history of UFOs, contributed an insightful chapter titled "The Military and the Early Cold War" to a 2000 book edited by David Jacobs. The chapter provides even more detail on the background, proceedings, and aftermath of the Robertson Panel, including the dealings between the CIA and the Air Force.

"The United States was entering an era in which the accurate and rapid identification of unknown air traffic was an extremely vital and yet weak link in its national defense," Swords observes.

The CIA had quickly ruled out the notion that UFOs represented secret aircraft of the Soviet Union, but they were concerned about what the Soviets knew about UFOs and how they might use that knowledge.

The result was that national security concerns overrode interest in scientific data gathering about the UFOs, the focus that the Air Force had anticipated for the panel discussion. Swords also adds insight about the scientists being consulted, their backgrounds and their interlocking interests. For example, he notes that "Robertson was a good friend of Donald Menzel and of R.V.

(Continued on next page)

EARLY 1953 UFO SIGHTING CHRONOLOGY: MORE MIRAGES?

Aerial encounters by military air crews with UFOs continued steadily well into 1953, as did other significant reports. Unless otherwise indicated, military cases are from Air Force Intelligence Reports. Note the continued strong patterns of shapes and maneuvers which hardly could have been overlooked by intelligence analysts.

Robertson Panel, Continued

Jones, a British scientist and military intelligence expert, who constantly debunked UFOs in elite circles in Britain." Most were openly skeptical and considered the whole thing a waste of time.

Dr. J. Allen Hynek, as the junior scientist at the sessions, says that he was somewhat intimidated though he was the scientist most knowledgeable about UFOs, and he detected an "atmosphere of scientific elitism [and] superciliousness" among the panelists.

Both Dr. Hynek and Ruppelt had anticipated that the scientists would call for better methods of scientific data-gathering. "But," says Swords, "Ruppelt and Hynek were naive. The panel's concern was national security and the cold war. ... The panel's conclusions and recommendations had no mention of science." (pp. 112-13).

References

Clark, Jerome. *The UFO Book: Encyclopedia of the Extraterrestrial* (Detroit: Visible Ink Press, 1998).

Jacobs, David M. *The UFO Controversy in America* (Indiana University Press, 1975).

Ruppelt, Edward J. Report on Unidentified Flying Objects (New York: Doubleday, 1956.)

Swords, Michael D. "UFOs, the Military, and the Early Cold War Era," in *UFOs and Abductions*, David M. Jacobs ed. (University Press of Kansas, 2000), pp. 82-121.

January 3, Craig, Montana. Three witnesses reported seeing an object like "two soup bowls put together ... [with] several lighted windows" along the side. "The object moved slowly at first, then began a rapid climb." Air Force "unknown" case. (*Project Blue Book Status Report No. 10*, 27 February 1953.)

January 8, Larsen AFB, Washington. More than 60 military and civilian witnesses observed a green, disc-shaped object for 15 minutes as it moved silently toward the southwest "bobbing vertically and going sideways." It was apparently below the clouds and moved against the wind. (*Project Blue Book Status Report No. 10*, 27 February 1953.)

January 9, Northern Japan. The crew of an F-94 interceptor saw and tracked a rotating UFO on radar.

January 9, Santa Ana, California. The crew of a B-29 bomber watched a V-formation of blue-white lights bank near the bomber, then climb away.

January 22, Santa Fe, New Mexico. "A fireball expert said today Russia may be scouting the United States and other parts of the world with strange new

(Continued on next page)

Early 1953 Chronology, Continued

guided missiles. Dr. Lincoln LaPaz said a good many shreds of evidence point to green fireballs sighted throughout the world being a type of missile -- possibly of Soviet make." (Associated Press story in *Santa Fe New Mexican*.)

January 28, Albany, Georgia. An Air Force F-86 pilot saw a clear-cut circular UFO pass beneath his plane, confirmed by radar. (Ruppelt p. 295.)

January 29, Presque Isle, Maine. An F-94 aircrew and other pilots saw a gray oval UFO.

February 6, Rosalia, Washington. Air Force bomber crew reported a circling UFO.

February 7, Korea. A bright orange light changed altitude and accelerated away from a pursuing F-94 jet interceptor as ground radar tracked the UFO. (Keyhoe, p. 257)

February 9, Washington, N.C. A Marine Corps fighter pilot, alerted by a Navy facility in Norfolk, Virginia, searched for a silver, maneuvering object that had been seen from the ground near the Virginia-North Carolina border. The F9F Panther pilot at first saw nothing and was returning to base.

He then saw "what looked like an airplane with red lights which appeared below me... What caused me to look back at the object," said 1st Lt. Ed Balocco, "was the fact that it moved from below me 10,000 feet vertically in a matter of seconds."

He turned to investigate and chased the object at speeds over 500 m.p.h. for 3-4 minutes, but could not close in on

it. The elongated white object was leaving a red glow behind it, and it had two arcing red lights visible on its left side. Finally, it descended and disappeared toward the coast.

February 16, Anchorage, Alaska. Reddish UFO approached, paced, Air Force transport plane, sped away when pursued.

February 17, Elmendorf AFB, Alaska. Control tower operators observed a red light hovering near the end of a runway. When a jet interceptor was scrambled to investigate, the object sped away.

March 7, Yuma, Arizona. Air Force officers at a gunnery meet observed about 12 disc-shaped objects that dove down and hovered over the base during the meet. (Associated Press story, Mar. 9, 1953.)

April; Laredo AFB, Texas. A jet pilot instructor in flight observed a distinct "solid brown cigar-shaped object" leaving a contrail as it passed over his T-33, turned sharply, circled the base and sped away at an estimated 1,200 m.p.h. (Report to NICAP.)

May; Washington, D.C. U.S. Air Force Manual (AFM) 200-3 promulgated with depiction of a bomber encountering "flying saucers" (domed discs) as an illustration of "technological surprise."

May 21, Prescott, Arizona. A veteran private pilot watched as eight disc-like objects "swooped around in formation, peeled off, and shot directly up and down in a manner that could not be duplicated by a plane." The objects maneuvered overhead for about an hour. (*Prescott Evening Courier*, May 22, 1953.) □

KEYHOE BOOK A SENSATION, INFLUENCES OFFICIAL POLICY

Flying Saucers from Outer Space was officially published on October 5, 1953. It was, arguably, one of the most important "idea" (philosophical) books ever published, and had a profound impact both on public awareness of and official policy toward UFOs.

The notion that serious evidence existed for visitors from another world and the Air Force had withheld the full story from the public was, literally, sensational. Yet, here was a respected military flying officer and journalist making exactly that claim and backing it up with official documents.

Since the Department of Defense letter on the dust jacket linked Major Keyhoe directly with the Air Force Project Blue Book UFO study, confirming that he had direct access to their case files and the full cooperation of the Air Force, his views appeared to be the official views of the Air Force. Probably they were the views of many high-ranking officers, but the success of the book and its influence on public opinion apparently caught the Air Force unprepared. By early 1954 the Air Force had begun to disown Keyhoe and to subtly try to discredit him.

At a press conference in Washington, D.C., on September 28, 1953, Major Keyhoe, talking about his forthcoming book, stated that the Air Force had been keeping secret from the public movies proving the reality of UFOs (the July 2, 1952 Utah film taken by Delbert Newhouse).

Keyhoe's allegations were carried by International News Service and made headlines across the country next day. The story said, in part:

The great flying saucer riddle explodes into fresh prominence with the publication of this book by a retired Marine officer. He has co-

Marine Major Says Air Force Has Proof 'Saucers' From Space

WASHINGTON, Sept. 28.—Major Donald E. Keyhoe, retired Marine Corps pilot, and officially, Major Donald E. Keyhoe claimed, consultant to the Air Force, has secret movies showing that the Air Force has secret "flying saucers" from another planet. He said another secret study is under way.

Sept. 28, 1953, INS story, Washington, D.C.

operated closely with the Air Force's investigators (Project Blue Book) for the last two years

Next day a United Press story with dateline Washington, D.C., September 29, contained a response from the Air Force:

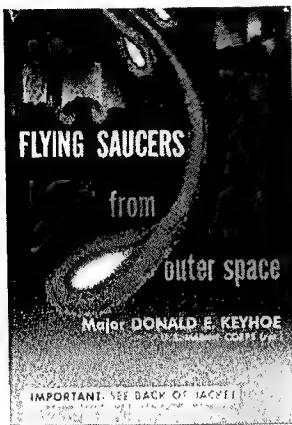
The Air Force still insists that "flying saucers" are weather freaks, despite a retired Marine officer's attempt to prove they are space ships from another planet. A spokesman said today there is no change in the Air Force's official view, although Donald E. Keyhoe...claims the Air Force has secret movies proving they are interplanetary craft.

The Air Force and the Weather Bureau, after exhaustive studies, agreed many months ago that fiery, fast-moving objects reported seen from coast to coast were light effects caused by temperature inversion.

(Editorial note: No evidence has ever been found of any Weather Bureau study of UFOs. In addition, scientists and technical analysts within the Air Force had rejected the temperature inversion theory.)

(Continued on next page)

Keyhoe Book, Continued



Copies available from D.E. Keyhoe Archives. Reading copy without dust jacket, \$12.00; very good copy with dust jacket, \$16.00. Postpaid in U.S. Check, money order, or PayPal to Richard Hall, 4418 39th St., Brentwood, MD 20722.

PayPal

dh12@erols.com

When the Air Force Office of Public Information implied publicly that Major Keyhoe had not reported their analysis findings on the July 2, 1952, movie accurately, Keyhoe quickly fired back, challenging defense officials to court-martial him if his statements were untrue. In a telegram to Brig. Gen. Sory Smith, director of information, he said:

Your office publicly implied that I misrepresented the Air Force analysis of the Utah flying saucer pictures in my book...If this is true, then as a retired Marine Corps officer I should be subjected to disciplinary action.

The newspaper coverage fanned the flames of controversy. Some sample articles and book reviews follow:

Keyhoe says flatly that the saucers are of interplanetary origin. He supplies potent arguments to back his belief....Keyhoe does not pretend to know all the answers. But he makes a strong case for the theory that we are under prolonged and detailed observation by someone from outer space. (*Los Angeles Mirror*, Oct. 2, 1953.)

Major Keyhoe... has shown that radarscopes have confirmed unknown foreign objects in our skies, that these objects pursue a reconnaissance course, studying Washington, major air bases, our atomic plants and similar sensitive areas....Buttressed by official documentation, [he] utterly and completely demolishes the extremely convenient and idiotic theory set up by Dr. Donald Menzel, a Harvard astronomer, who claimed he could reproduce the phenomena in his laboratory and, therefore, the Flying Saucers were mirages and weather illusions. (Columnist Whitney Bolton, "Looking Sideways," *Fort Worth Star Telegram*, Texas, Oct. 7, 1953.)

□

[Major Keyhoe] believes that the flying saucers are space craft piloted by unknown beings from outer space. [He] offers evidence derived from both Air Force intelligence reports and personal investigation, that is strongly convincing. So strong are Major Keyhoe's arguments that the burden of proof, according to many responsible observers, is now on the disbelievers. (*Newport News Press*, Virginia, Oct. 25, 1953.)

□

[Major Keyhoe] here submits considerable evidence that the pooh-poohing in higher military circles is not sincere....[This is] the most comprehensive book yet published on this subject which has come into the news only recently. The possible mechanical nature of the strange aircraft is among the subjects covered fairly extensively...The documentary evidence in the text and in appendices of saucers and the military efforts to solve the mystery is impressive. (*South Bend Tribune*, Indiana, Oct. 27, 1953.)

□

(Continued on next page)

Keyhoe Book, Continued

[Major Keyhoe] was one of the first to discuss them seriously and has been an invaluable gadfly in keeping the armed services from stamping "top secret" on reports of sightings. He believes that the saucers are real and that they do come from another planet, and indicates strongly that the Air Force thinks so too. (*Springfield Republican*, Mass., Nov. 1, 1953.)



A puzzling book on a puzzling subject....[Major Keyhoe] develops the thesis that they are real, interplanetary, operate through electromagnetic forces, are controlled, that the Air Force knows more than it is telling and that the public should be informed. The book sounds like science fiction... (*Library Journal*, Nov. 1, 1953.)



General			
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The Power of Positive Thinking. Peale
 The Spirit of St. Louis. Lindbergh
 A House Is Not a Home. Adler
 Lelia. Maurois
 Sexual Behavior: Human Female. Kinsey
 Gone With the Windsors. Brody
 A Man Called Peter. Marshall
 Period Piece. Raveris
 Life Is Worth Living. Sheen
 Holy Bible: Revised Standard Version.
 The Age of the Moguls. Holbrook
 The Life and Work of Freud. Vol. 1. Jones
 Flying Saucers From Outer Space. Keboe
 The Greatest Faith Ever Known. Oursler

On Nov. 8, 1953, *Flying Saucers from Outer Space* ranked 13th on the New York Times Best Seller List.

AIR FORCE NAVIGATOR ENDORSES KEYHOE BOOK

An early reader of *Flying Saucers from Outer Space* was an Air Force Strategic Air Command navigator, who wrote to the author in care of the publisher, expressing a strong private endorsement of its contents. The letter was dated October 15, 1953, from Little Rock, Arkansas.

Your views as expressed so ably in your latest book coincide with those of the writer and your trials and tribulations with regards to USAF security, policy and red tape was [sic] followed with keen interest. In this connection, the writer is well aware of the difficulties involved having been recalled to active duty for two years (recently released) with the Strategic Air Command as navigator...

In our group, we were briefed on several missions classified as "Top Secret" and others as "Secret" to be especially watchful for UFO and like examples described by yourself. I personally know of two officers (one a Lt. Colonel) who sighted what was apparently a disk and did not report it because of the reception they knew would follow. Their thinking even went farther to the possible effects on their OER [Officer Evaluation Report] and future promotion possibilities. It is appalling that such conditions exist in the Air Force.

As to sightings that were reported, on one mission flown in 1952 I was a debriefing officer and recall discussions of 5 separate sightings all in one locality (Eglin AFB, Florida) by 5 separate crews arriving at different times. I could not learn of the details but all crews were apparently being kept under close surveillance by this object. There was also some talk of radio jamming and radar interference near this area but this could have been Air Defense measures. I am not in a position to know....

(Continued on page 12)

"SPACE MAN" RADIO HOAX

During a promotional tour for his book *Flying Saucers from Outer Space*, Maj. Donald E. Keyhoe (USMC, Ret.) was in New York City on October 7, 1953. That morning he was a guest on the popular NBC breakfast program hosted by Tex McCrary and his wife, Jinx Falkenberg, broadcast from the studios in the Waldorf Astoria Hotel.

During the live interview a call came in to the studio switchboard shortly after 9:00 a.m. and producer, Bob Klew, passed it on to the co-hosts. The caller then said on the air:

This is a voice from outer space. I warn you earthmen to stop talking about flying saucers, about bombs and preparations for war, for unless you learn to live in peace your planet will be annihilated.

I know this because I am in a position to see and you are not. I am reaching you with difficulty. You cannot see me and you could not bear the sight if you did. It would be too hideous.

The caller said he was in a space ship over Los Angeles, later over Salt Lake City. According to the newswire service stories that made headlines all over the country on October 7 and October 8, "Telephone calls from startled listeners began jamming the hotel switchboard. NBC officials also reported a flood of calls, some of them nearly hysterical."

The words "panic" and "hysteria" appear in many of the headlines and the incident was compared to the Orson Welles "invasion from Mars" broadcast in some newspapers though there is little or no evidence of any panic. Many of the callers had expressed anger over "that kind of a hoax," while others simply asked whether the call was real.



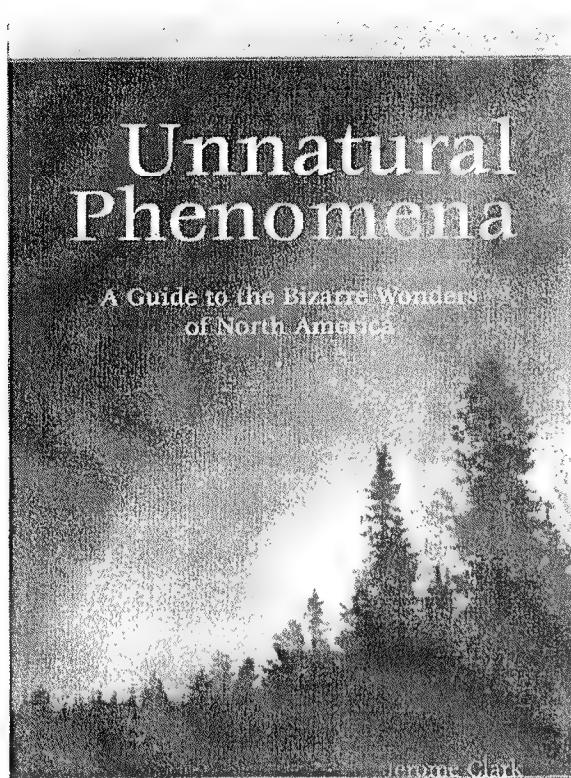
Jinx Falkenberg and Tex McCrary, popular NBC radio show hosts.

Network and police investigation determined that the call had been placed somewhere between Chicago and New York. An effort was made to entice the caller to phone the McCrarys again so his location could be further traced, but he did not call.

In a somewhat more sinister twist, it turned out that the same caller had phoned the McCrary home about 10 minutes earlier leaving the cryptic message, "The McCrary children will not be harmed."

Later that night he called the McCrary home again, leaving the same message. Police and other authorities were investigating, but their efforts to identify the caller were not successful.

(Sources: *United Press and International News Service*, Oct. 7, 1953.)



Air Force Navigator, Continued

I for one believe the American people are prepared for the fact that we have been under observation for a number of years and that you are to be commended for your part in bringing this fact to the public's attention.

As a former navigator with 1400 flying hours and with further training as a meteorologist I am satisfied your findings are correct and that only time will tell the final purpose and outcome of these visitations.

Yours very truly,
B.C. Hulsey
1st Lt. USAFR

BOOK REVIEW

Unnatural Phenomena: A Guide to the Bizarre Wonders of North America, by Jerome Clark. Santa Barbara, Calif.: ABC-CLIO, 2005. 350 pp., \$85.00.

Jerry Clark is well known to all students of the UFO phenomenon (or phenomena) as the author of UFO encyclopedias and as an editor of the Center for UFO Studies' *International UFO Reporter*. An accomplished and highly regarded historian of the UFO subject, he also is a noted philosopher when it comes to anomalies in general. His astute commentaries on unorthodox and/or unexplained occurrences in nature have graced the pages of just about every significant publication that addresses these topics.

Unnatural Phenomena reports on classic Fortean phenomena such as inexplicable falls of biological and other materials and substances from the sky, sightings of oddball creatures, out-of-place artifacts, and UFO-like events from the 19th and early 20th Century. Clark's main sources are newspapers and scientific journals, and they include a number of proto-UFO reports.

His Introduction alone is worth the price of admission, setting the stage for the reports that follow and commenting about their possible meaning. The book is organized to report the panoply of weird events alphabetically by state. Clark provides a veritable feast of raw data of the anomalous kind, carefully documented and presented in an attractive format. (For online ordering information see www.abc-clio.com)

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A Publication of the Donald E. Keyhoe Archives

Volume II



Vol. II, No. 6

January-February 2006



Office of Naval Research "Skyhook" balloon in flight, 1957 (U.S. Navy Photo).

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EDITORIAL

With this issue we complete two years of publication, two volumes of six issues each. Those of you who initially subscribed for two years (or renewed your one-year subscription for another year) are now due to make a renewal payment. Subscription rates appear in the masthead opposite this column.

The chronologies of UFO sightings so far have covered approximately the first 7 years of UFO history, through 1953. In subsequent issues we will be reporting on the international sighting waves of 1954 and 1955, largely unheralded in the United States. These waves included large numbers of "alien sightings" for the first time; reports of humanoid UFO occupants

During this period the Air Force Project Blue Book investigation went into hiding, more or less disappearing from public view. Yet the Air Force took some surprising new actions not in keeping with the CIA Robertson Panel recommendation to debunk the subject.

In 1956 a group of professional people and military officers in the Washington, D.C., area organized the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena (NICAP), which went public early in 1957. Needless to say, the period of the mid- to late 1950s is critical to an understanding of the major issues of UFO history.

Correction. The caption on the cover of the previous issue misidentified the source of the illustration as being Air Force Manual (AFM) 200-5. As correctly reported in the Editorial in that issue, the source was AFM 200-3.

UFO ENCOUNTERS WITH BALLOONS: A SURVEY

During the Summer 1952 UFO sighting wave, the crew of a Navy aircraft in the process of tracking a large "Skyhook" cosmic ray balloon over the North Atlantic was startled to see three disc-shaped objects that attached themselves to the balloon's scientific instrument package. After several minutes the objects separated from the balloon, established a V-formation, accelerated rapidly and climbed out of sight. (See story, Vol. II, No. 4, Sept.-Oct. 2005, p. 8). As intelligence analysts must have been aware at the time, this was not the first such case, nor would it be the last. Scientists, pilots, and technicians engaged in balloon tracking have contributed an intriguing body of significant UFO reports.

General Mills and Navy personnel at a balloon launching site near Arrey, New Mexico, were gathering weather data on April 24, 1949, in preparation for a Navy Skyhook balloon mission. At 10:20 a.m. they had released a small weather balloon to check on upper air wind currents and velocities, and were tracking it via a theodolite.

Looking up at the sky, Charles B. Moore, Jr., saw a whitish spherical object moving easterly at a rate of 5 degrees per second. The object was moving too rapidly to track it simply by cranking the theodolite, so one of the men had to point the theodolite manually while Moore observed the object through the telescope.

As reported by J. Gordon Vaeth:¹

The object was an ellipsoid about 2-1/2 times as long as it was wide. It had a length of .02 degrees subtended angle and was gleaming white in color. It did not have metallic or

Famous False Statements

"There is not a single reliable report of an observation [UFO] which is not attributable to the cosmic balloons." - Dr. Urner Lidell, Office of Naval Research, *LOOK Magazine*, February 1951.

reflected shine. Toward the underside near the tail, the gleaming white became a light yellow. The object, readily visible to the naked eye and seen by all the members of the group, filled the field of the theodolite's 25-power scope. ... It disappeared in a sharp climb after having been visible to Moore and his group for about 60 seconds.

On January 16, 1951, General Mills personnel tracking a "Skyhook" balloon near Artesia, New Mexico, saw two disc-shaped objects approach rapidly, tip on edge, circle the balloon, then speed off over the horizon. In February of that year Dr. Urner Lidell, Office of Naval Research, said in an article in *LOOK Magazine*: "There is not a single reliable

(Continued on next page)

¹ 200 Miles Up—The Conquest of the Upper Air. New York: Ronald Press Co., 1956, pp. 113-16.

UFO-Balloon Encounters, Continued

report of an observation [UFO] which is not attributable to the cosmic [Skyhook] balloons."

Two Air Force officers in a C-47 near Holloman AFB, New Mexico, were tracking a 70-foot research balloon about 10:00 a.m. on February 14, 1951 when they noticed a bright star-like object apparently near the balloon. As they flew beneath the balloon they saw that the object was descending and observed that it was disc-shaped, silvery-white.

The disc hovered near the balloon, its apparent size about one-quarter to one-half that of the balloon (around 15-30 feet in diameter). The witnesses watched the UFO from the astrodome atop the aircraft for 3-5 minutes, after which it separated from the balloon and sped away. As it accelerated to the west, the object emitted a series of three bright flashes of light at one second intervals, reminiscent of photo flashes, then disappeared. (Associated Press, Feb. 16, 1951. *New Yorker*, Sept. 6, 1952.)

On October 10-11, 1951, General Mills balloon launch personnel, including the supervisor of balloon manufacture, J.J. Kaliszewski, had two sightings of UFOs from an aircraft. On the first day near St. Croix Falls, Wisconsin, they were climbing toward their balloon when they saw:

...a strange object crossing the skies from East to West [moving very rapidly], a great deal higher and behind our balloon. I estimate that

The Aeronautical Division of general Mills, Inc.,... had launched and tracked every skyhook balloon that had been launched prior to mid-1952. They knew what their balloons looked like under all lighting conditions and they also knew meteorology, aerodynamics, astronomy, and they knew UFOs...they had seen many of them...and the things they saw couldn't be explained. - Capt. Edward J. Ruppelt, Chief, Air Force Project Blue Book

our balloon was at approximately 20,000 feet at the time. ...The object had a peculiar glow to it, first coming in at a slight dive leveling off for about a minute and slowing down. Then into a sharp left turn and climb at an angle of 50 degrees to 60 degrees into the southeast with a terrific acceleration, and disappeared.

[The object] crossed through an arc of approximately 40 degrees to 50 degrees. We saw no vapor trail and from past experience I know that this object was not a balloon, jet, conventional aircraft, or celestial star. [Signed statement by J. J. Kaliszewski.]

On the second day near Minneapolis, Minnesota. They were flying at about 10,000 feet observing their balloon when,

I [Kaliszewski] saw a brightly glowing object ...moving from east to west at a high rate and very high. We tried keeping the ship [aircraft] on a constant course and using reinforcing member of the windshield as a point. The object moved past this member at about 5 degrees per second.

This object was peculiar in that it had what can be described as a halo around it with a dark under surface. It crossed rapidly and then slowed down and started to climb in lazy circles

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UFO-Balloon Encounters, Continued

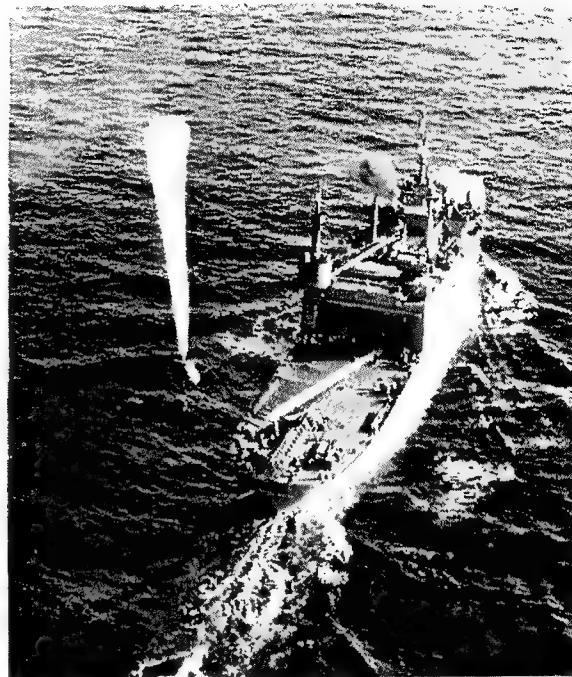
slowly. The pattern it made was like a falling oak leaf inverted. It went through these gyrations for a couple minutes.

I called our tracking station at the University of Minnesota airport and the observers there on the theodolite managed to get glimpses of a number of them, but couldn't keep the theodolite going fast enough to keep them in the field of their instruments.

Again, General Mills personnel in Minneapolis, Minnesota, were tracking a 79-foot balloon via theodolite about 10:00 a.m. on October 15, 1953. At the time, the balloon was at about 73,000 feet altitude. An apparent vapor trail lower than the balloon caught their eye, and they observed an object moving horizontally for about 30 seconds, traveling about 10 degrees across the sky in 9 seconds.

The object next dove vertically for 10-15 seconds giving off a glow, then leveled off. At this time the smoke or vapor trail ceased. The witnesses both were experienced pilots, and one also a meteorological engineer.²

Office of Naval Research aircraft crew members once again saw UFOs near one of their Skyhook balloons on February 1, 1954. While airborne in the vicinity of Tuscaloosa, Alabama at 3:15 p.m., they were observing a cosmic ray research balloon which was at or



Skyhook balloon launched from deck of the seaplane tender *USS Norton* (AV-11), March 31, 1949. For size comparison, the *Norton* was 640 feet long and 69 feet across the beam. (U.S. Navy Photograph.)

above 90,000 feet, ahead of them to the east. They were astonished to see six objects fly over and around the balloon, hover, then ascend vertically out of sight. (Hynek, Center for UFO Studies case cited by David Rudiak; see his web site www.roswellproof.com)

Anthropomorphically speaking, it is worth noting that UFOs also displayed extraordinary "interest" in aircraft, rockets, and missiles during the 1940s and 1950s.

Collectively, these reports of UFOs conducting apparent "inspections" of airborne vehicles strongly suggest curiosity, exploratory behavior and, by implication, intelligence. □

² J.A. Hynek, *The UFO Experience*, Chapter 6, Case DD-9.

Central Intelligence Agency UFO-related Documents Online Analysis and Opinion

The Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) web site (www.foia.cia.gov) contains searchable document files (320 files, totaling several hundred pages altogether) of UFO-related documents that have been released as a result of FOIA requests from citizens. The NICAP web site (www.nicap.org) maintained by Francis L. Ridge is analyzing this information and will be posting links to significant documents.

Ironically, the documents available in the CIA "Electronic Reading Room" include several about the original NICAP (National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena) and Maj. Donald E. Keyhoe from the 1950s and 1960s, and other material well into the 1990s.

One of the documents pertains to a 1965 meeting between a CIA Domestic Contact Division agent and Richard Hall (See Hall, *Uninvited Guests*, pp. 354-58.) In that case, the CIA representative filed a report stating that Maj. William Kehoe (sic) apparently was no longer with the organization, which doesn't inspire confidence about the accuracy of other CIA files.

Clearly this more or less random set of documents is far from everything about UFOs in the CIA archives. These files range from low-grade intelligence gathering of newspaper reports to fairly significant internal documents reflecting actions taken by the CIA at various times.

Glaringly absent (with a very few exceptions) are hardcore UFO case studies and the "finished intelligence reports" of important cases known to exist. On the other hand, administrative documents and internal memos confirm such matters of historical importance as the CIA direct investigation of a flurry of UFO sightings around the Washington,

D.C., area in late 1964 and early 1965, and its formation of a secret "window" into the Air Force sponsored University of Colorado UFO Project in 1966-67. (The credibility of the CIA investigations is another issue.)

One document addressed to the Director of Central Intelligence (DCI), titled "Evaluation of UFOs," is dated Jan. 26, 1965, and signed by Donald F. Chamberlain, Assistant Director, Scientific Intelligence. It debunks all the recent "news media reports". However, it continues:

[OSI] monitors reports of UFOs, including the official Air Force investigation reports, and concurs with the Air Force conclusions, which are unclassified and available to scientific investigators.

Then, rather astoundingly, Chamberlain encloses to the DCI the standard, notoriously inaccurate and biased, Air Force Project Blue Book statistics and cites to the DCI the low percentage of unexplained cases!

This document alone raises several extremely interesting questions. The recent "news media" reports so glibly debunked without any detailed analysis included two radar cases reported by highly credible witnesses.

(Continued on next page)

CIA UFO Files, Continued

Was the DCI "out of the loop" (not unprecedented in CIA history)? Was Chamberlain an extreme UFO skeptic who didn't bother to really study strong UFO cases thoroughly and scientifically? Does this document reflect a prevalent mindset among CIA analysts?

Somehow it is difficult to believe that this evaluation represents the real CIA study of UFOs, though in light of recent disclosures that is possibly the case. The "cover-up" versus "foul-up" question applies to the CIA as well as to the Air Force.

Since I was personally involved to some degree in the two radar cases so casually written off by Chamberlain as radar malfunctions and human error, I am personally inclined to think that this document was deliberately meant for general public distribution in order to conceal what was really going on.

If the DCI actually was receiving such poor quality briefings on UFO-related intelligence data, then I am inclined to believe that he was either "out of the loop" or was the victim of the same sort of unscientific, illogical response (by alleged scientists) to credible UFO sightings that plagued the Air Force.

While senior Air Force leaders took the reports from their pilots and radar crews seriously based, among other things, on strong radar-visual evidence and film data, consulting scientists regularly trivialized the data and debunked the sightings. - R.H.

LANDING TRACE CASE IN LITHUANIA

(From Central Intelligence Agency Foreign Broadcast Information Service, London, UK.)

Two police officers in Vilnius, Lithuania, witnessed the landing and take-off of a spherical UFO that left physical traces on June 25, 1996. Although the case departs from our typical definition of UFO "history," it is now almost 10 years old and certainly is unknown to most people in the West.

As translated by the CIA from Russian from Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service, June 26, 1996, this is the story:

POLICE OFFICERS SPOT UFO; RAPID REACTION FORCE ALERTED

An unidentified flying object (UFO), spotted near the Lithuanian border on 25 June by two duty motor police patrol officers Jaunius Pozera and Laimis Kraujalis placed the whole Vilnius police on the alert. Vehicle loads of soldiers from the Aras Rapid Reaction Force, sniffer dogs and police reinforcements immediately arrived on the scene of the emergency.

According to the eyewitnesses's accounts, at about 0030 in the early morning, on the Vilnius-Medininkai Road, near the village of Nemezis, 10 km from the capital, at an altitude of 20-30 meters above the ground, they noticed a spherical object hanging [hovering] and "pulsing," alternately shrinking and expanding. At the same time, they heard what they described as "a strange sound like an electric or electronic crackle."

Wanting to take a closer look at the UFO, the policemen moved toward it. When they had advanced about 50 meters through the long grass, the police said, the sphere moved away, rose higher and rapidly departed in the direction of Vilnius.

(Continued on next page)

Lithuanian UFO, Continued

The policemen watched the UFO for about half an hour. On their arrival at the scene of the "emergency," members of the civil defense department, servicemen from the special forces and commissioners of the capital's police carefully studied the area, measured the background radiation and tape-recorded the strange sound, which was still heard in the area after the disappearance of the UFO.

The sniffer dogs did not discover anything suspicious and behaved quietly. But it was noted that the tall grass around the place over which the sphere had "hung" was flattened to a radius of 10 meters.

Lithuanian scientists have not yet expressed an opinion on the appearance of this UFO near Vilnius. Police Commissioner Valentinas Juchnevicius said in a radio interview today that both officers who watched the shining object "are psychologically healthy, normal people, not noted for crankiness [being cranks]."

Did the CIA simply file and forget reports of this nature, or did they recognize familiar patterns in the story and seek follow-up reports about the on-site investigations?

This particular report must have contained some "key words" of special military interest for the time period, since the distribution list indicates 43 recipients of the translation. Among them were DOE, Washington, D. C.; Commander-in-Chief of Pacific Fleet, Honolulu; Office of Naval Intelligence, Washington, D.C.; Defense Intelligence Agency (DOD), Washington, D.C.; and Air Force Office of Special Investigations, Bolling Field, Washington, D.C. □

Late 1953 UFO Sightings and Other Developments

A year after the Summer 1952 Washington, D.C., sightings, identical reports still were being made, but the sightings had long since faded from the newspaper headlines. The Air Force, however, was beginning to put in place new policies in a reported attempt to gain better evidence.

By June 1, 1953, the Air Force had distributed 73 Videon cameras with diffraction gratings, optical devices for photographing the color spectrum of luminous UFOs, to selected Air Force base control towers and Air Defense Command radar sites. But the gratings were found to be faulty; a planned replacement and redistribution was scheduled to take place in November. (*Project Blue Book Status Report No. 12*, September 30, 1953, p. 6.)

July 24, Mt. Vernon, Ohio. Ground Observer Corp report of a large silver object that circled overhead at 9:00 a.m. at an estimated altitude of 30,000 feet, then flew away to the southwest. (Hall, *The UFO Evidence*, 1964, p. 65.)

Summer, Yaak, Montana. An Air Force radar site picked up six unidentified objects that made abrupt changes of direction. As the objects approached their site, the crew went outdoors and saw six objects in trail formation, switching to inline abreast, then stack formation. Their speed was estimated to be 1,400-1,600 m.p.h. (Hall, 1964, p. 85.)

(Continued on next page)

1953 Chronology, Continued

August 9, Moscow, Idaho. Mr. L.E. Towner, supervisor, and other Ground Observer Corps spotters reported watching three Air Force F-86 jets interceptors close in to investigate a large glowing disc. As they approached, the object accelerated rapidly and sped away. The Project Blue Book *Special Report No. 12* case evaluation states "probably light reflections on clouds," but provides no details at all. (Hall, 1964, p. 66.)

August 12, Rapid City, South Dakota. Ground Observer Corps post members observed a UFO first hovering in the eastern sky, then moving in over the city. When ground radar tracked the object, an F-84 jet was scrambled to investigate. The pilot chased the object for 120 miles, as ground radar showed both his plane and the UFO. The object accelerated each time the jet began to close in.

A second F-84 was scrambled when the first pilot returned to base, the pilot obtaining a radar lock-on as he chased the UFO. Again, the object accelerated to stay just ahead of the pursuing aircraft. When the pilot switched on his radar-ranging gunsight and the red light blinked on showing a real "target" ahead, the pilot was frightened.

When Capt. E.J. Ruppelt later interviewed him, the pilot "...readily admitted that he'd been scared ... he asked the controller if he could break off the intercept." (Ruppelt, *Report on UFOs*, pp. 303-305.)

August 20, Wright-Patterson AFB, Dayton, Ohio. A representative of

Project Stork (i.e., Battelle Memorial Institute) visited Blue Book to report on the status of their computer study of UFO reports from 1947 to 1952. This later resulted in *Project Blue Book Special Report No. 14*. (Project Blue Book Status Report No. 12, pp. 5-6.)

August 23, Port Moresby, New Guinea. Tom Drury, a high-ranking Australian aviation official, managed to obtain motion picture film footage of an elongated silver, metallic UFO at high altitude that emerged from an odd isolated cloud formation. The object then climbed steeply, leaving a vapor trail, and disappeared in seconds at high speed. The film was sent to the United States for analysis.

Australian scientist Bill Chalker, who has examined the RAAF files on the case and conducted an investigation, reports in a Project 1947 forum that the film was analyzed in the U.S. by the CIA. His 1996 book includes a detailed description of the film and its history.

Project Blue Book in *Status Report No. 12*, September 30, 1953, lists the case evaluation as "Insufficient data," but provides no description or details at all. (www.project1947.com; Chalker, *The Oz Files*, 1996, pp. 51-55.)

August 26, Washington, D.C. Air Force Regulation 200-2 was issued by the Secretary of the Air Force establishing procedures for reporting UFO sightings and restrictions on public release or discussion of information about any unexplained cases.

September 7, Cleveland, Ohio. A technical writer for Goodyear Aircraft Corporation at about 6:30 p.m. glanced
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1953 Chronology, Continued

up at the sky and saw a grayish-blue object moving overhead toward the north. The object, which flew beneath a solid overcast at about 1,000 feet, was shaped roughly like an equilateral triangle with rounded sides and angles. It was rotating around a central axis as it continued on a steady course, disappearing over the horizon. (NICAP report.)

September 7, Vandalia, Ohio. A naval reserve pilot was flying to Indianapolis from Columbus, Ohio, with his wingman, both in FG-1D Corsairs at 4,000 feet. Shortly after 8:00 p.m. he noticed a bright white, flashing light moving rapidly at a lower altitude and alerted his wingman, who could not see it. After passing beneath them, the object pulled up and climbed rapidly out of sight to the north.

On the return trip about an hour later, the pilot and his wingman both observed the same or a similar object. The UFO changed positions rapidly, then dove and pulled up ahead of them and climbed out of sight. (Leonard H. Stringfield interview report, Hall 1964, p. 32.)

September 11-13, Chiloquin, Oregon. Police Chief Lew Jones was among the many witnesses to UFOs seen over a three-night period. Observed through binoculars, the objects appeared top shaped and had visible body lights. (*Los Angeles Daily News*, Sept. 15, 1953.)

September 30, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio. Project Blue Book Status Report No. 12 published reporting on events

for the period of June-August 1953, classified "Secret."

October 18, English Channel. British airline pilots, Capt. Peter Fletcher and First Officer R. L. Lemon, encountered a UFO shaped "like two shallow saucers with their rims together." A classic description universally reported by highly credible observers. (Hall, 1964, p. 35.)

November 3, London, England. A huge circular metallic UFO was tracked on radar, seen by interceptor pilots, and observed through a telescope. (Keyhoe, *Flying Saucer Conspiracy*, 1955, p. 79.)

November 23, Kinross AFB, Michigan. An Air Force F-89 interceptor vanished while chasing a UFO. (See separate story, page 11.)

December 1, Washington, D.C. The Air Force announced that it had set up special "flying saucer" cameras around the country equipped with diffraction gratings to analyze the nature of the light emitted by UFOs.

December 17, Sweden. Capt. Ulf Christiernsson, a WWII RAF pilot and currently chief pilot for the Swedish Transair Airlines, along with his flight mechanic Olle Johansson, observed a circular object that flew beneath their DC-3 in the afternoon. "What I saw," Christiernsson stated, "was a completely unorthodox, metallic, symmetrical, round object unlike anything I have seen before."

The DC-3 was at 2,150 meters altitude and the object flew between it and the cloud ceiling which was at

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AIR FORCE F-89 INTERCEPTOR DISAPPEARS WHILE CHASING UFO OVER LAKE SUPERIOR. RADAR SHOWS AIRCRAFT AND UFO IMAGES MERGING

Like a Grade B science fiction melodrama, an Air Defense Command all-weather interceptor was scrambled to investigate an unidentified radar target near the Canadian-U.S. border on the night of November 23, 1953, and never returned. The Air Force later claimed that the pilot had intercepted a stray Canadian airliner and was returning to base when he apparently became disoriented and crashed into Lake Superior. Although the full story is yet to be told, the evidence does not support the Air Force claim. Maj. Donald E. Keyhoe first reported the case in his 1955 book *Flying Saucer Conspiracy* from which the following excerpt is taken.

It was the evening of November 23, and wintry darkness had settled over Michigan. At an isolated radar station Air Defense operators were watching their scope in a routine guard against possible enemy attack.

Suddenly the "blip" of an unknown machine appeared on the glass screen. The Ground Control Intercept officer took a quick look. The "unknown" was flying over the Soo Locks - and no aircraft was scheduled near that important target. Whatever it was, it had to be identified swiftly.

1953 Chronology, Continued

about 1,500 meters, visible to the pilot for 4-5 seconds. With these reference points, they estimated the size to be about 10 meters in diameter.

When the UFO passed beneath the aircraft, the mechanic was able to observe it for an additional 5 seconds, and confirmed that it was circular or slightly elliptical in outline. The pilot compared the object to a "flying lozenge," and said it had a metallic luster. (Central Intelligence Agency Foreign Broadcast Information Service, April 1, 1954, translated from articles in the Stockholm *Dagens Kyheter* daily, December 18-20, 1953.) □

In less than two minutes an F-89 from Kimross [sic] Field was streaking toward the locks. At the jet's controls was Lieutenant Felix Moncla, Jr., a veteran at 26. Behind him was Lieutenant R.R. Wilson, 22-year-old Oklahoman, acting as radar observer. Guided by Ground Control, Moncla climbed steeply toward the "unknown."



F-89 Scorpion Fighter
(U.S. Air Force Photo)

Back at GCI, the controller watched the jet's blip on his glowing radarscope. As it moved toward the UFO's blip, the strange craft changed course. The controller called Moncla, gave him the new bearing. From the scope he saw that the F-89 was now over Sault Sainte Marie, though to the crew the city's lights would be only a blur, quickly lost behind.

The UFO, flying as fast as a jet airliner, was heading toward Lake Superior. At over 500 m.p.h. the F-89 raced after it, out across Whitefish Bay.

Nine more minutes ticked by in the tense quiet of the GCI radar room. Gradually the F-89 cut down the gap. [The controller started to communicate with the plane.] He broke off, staring at

(Continued on next page)

Kinross Case, Continued

the scope. The two blips had suddenly merged into one. ...The two machines were locked together, as if in a smashing collision.

For a moment longer the huge, ominous blip remained on the glass. Then it quickly went off the scope. (Keyhoe, 1955, pp. 13-15.)

The apparent collision had occurred far offshore, about 100 miles from Sault Sainte Marie and 70 miles from Keweenaw Point. Search planes were deployed, but no trace was ever found of the aircraft or the object it had been chasing.

The *Sault Sainte Marie Evening News* reported on November 25 that bad weather was hampering the search for the missing pilots, whose names were included in the article. Said the newspaper: "Air Force spokesmen at Truax Air Field, Madison, Wis., who identified the fliers, said the plane was followed by radar until it merged with an unidentified object 70 miles off Keweenaw Point."

Two days later the newspaper reported that the "UFO" had turned out to be a Canadian Air Force C-47, but repeated the reported merging of the two blips, "and then contact was lost with the jet, which was at 8,000 feet altitude at that time."

In 1956 the missing pilot's brother-in-law, in the law department of a major oil company in Texas, wrote to Major Keyhoe and they exchanged letters.

Keyhoe had received another letter from an Air Force officer purporting to be a friend of the widow, Mrs. Moncla.

Search Continues Today For Missing Jet Plane

The search continued today for Force C-47. Kinross officers said the missing F-89 jet interceptor. The two "blips" on radar screens since Monday from Kinross appeared to merge as the jet crashed on the C-47, they said, and then from Air Force Base. The search was directed today at contact was lost with the jet, which was at 8,000 feet altitude at that

The Evening News, Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan
Friday, November 27, 1953

This officer had severely criticized him for including Moncla's name in his book which, he said, had "caused untold misery" to the widow. Keyhoe wrote an apologetic letter to the brother-in-law, who replied that he had spoken to Mrs. Moncla:

Mrs. Moncla was shocked at [the officer's claim] and asked me to write you that she understood and that no apology was necessary. In fact, she was pleased over the fact that you displayed enough interest in the matter to investigate it fully.

Mrs. Moncla, he said, was first told that her husband had intercepted a C-47, flown too low under it and crashed into the lake. Later they told her that his aircraft had exploded in flight and there was no other aircraft involved.

The Air Force was still circulating the C-47 explanation in the 1960s. The Royal Canadian Air Force in response to NICAP inquiries twice denied that one of their C-47s was involved.

The microfilmed history of the F-89 fighter interceptor squadron, obtained by Project 1947, records that the F-89 was being directed from 25,000 feet down to 7,000 feet when the two blips merged on the radar scope, further noting: "Radar and radio was lost with the F-89 at this time and the aircraft was never sighted again." □

